

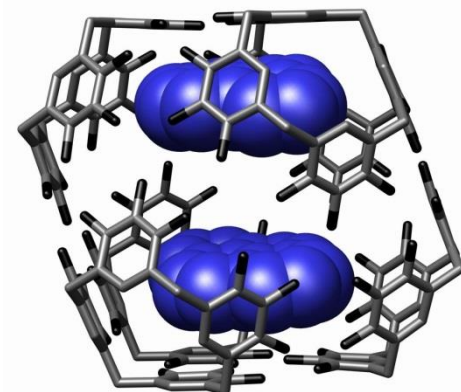
Supramolecular Chemistry

6 CFU

(LM in Chimica @Units)

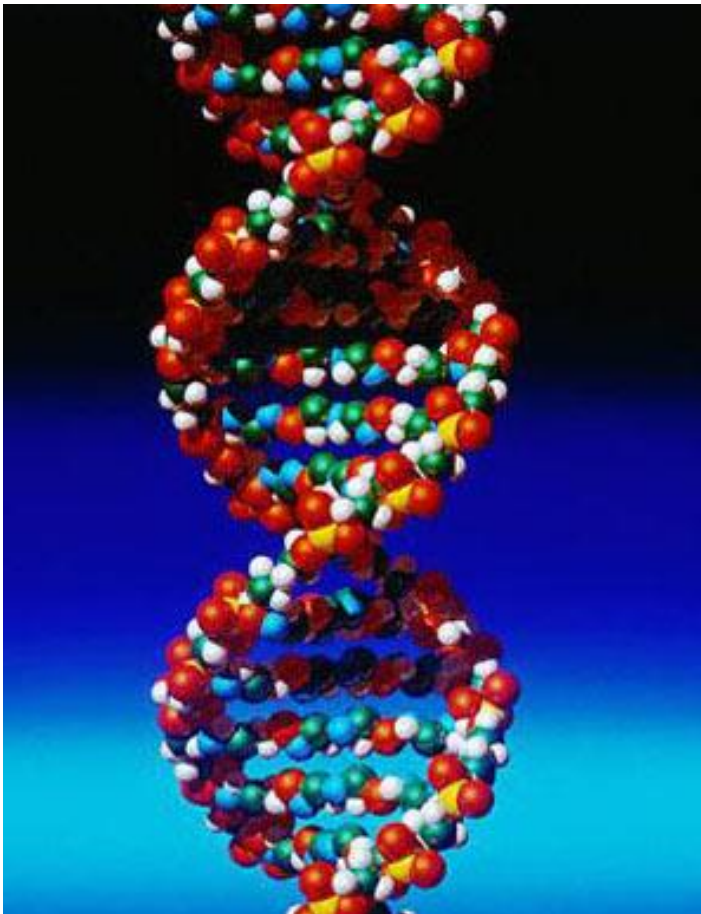
AA 2024/2025

Prof. E. Iengo
eiengo@units.it

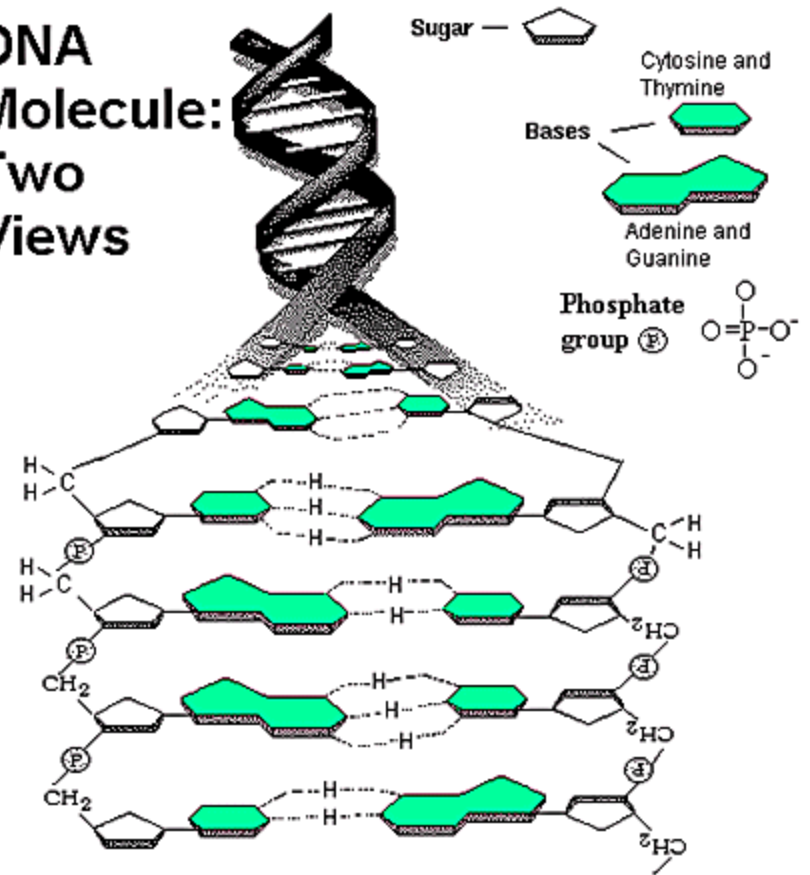


The original inspiration: Supramolecular systems in Nature

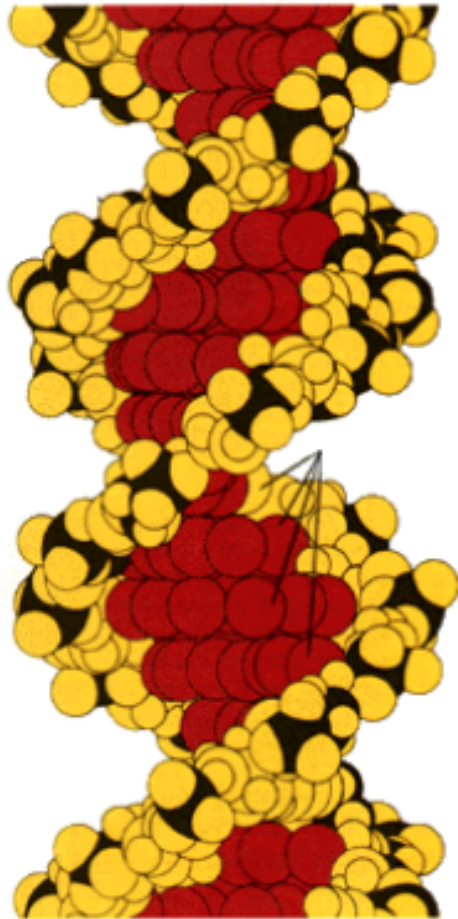
DNA



DNA
Molecule:
Two
Views



Information Storage



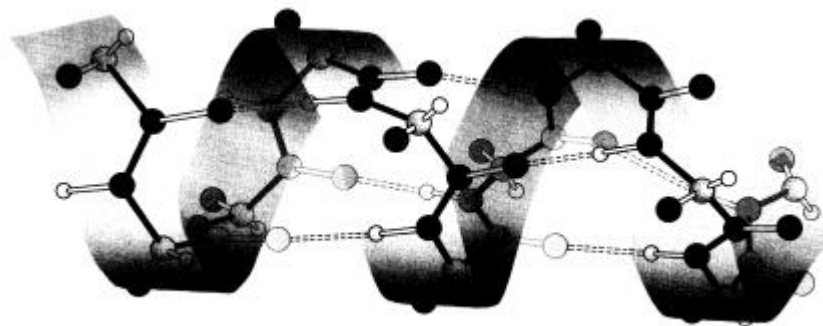
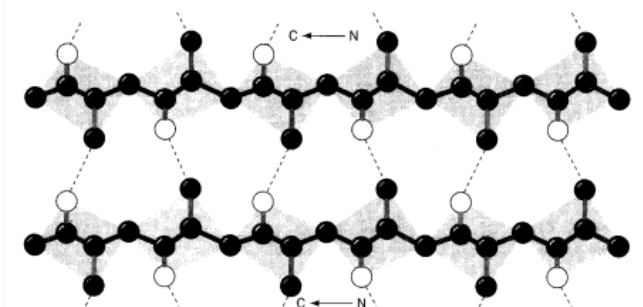
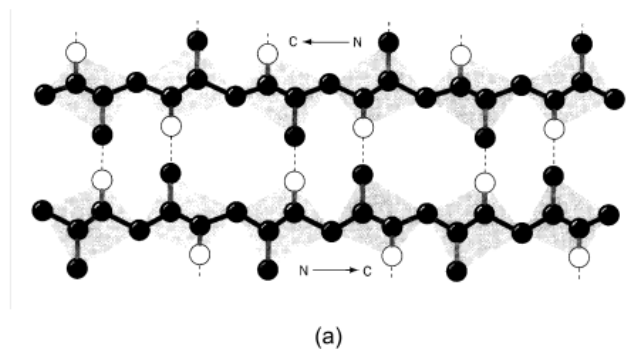
The ultimate supramolecular material?

- Encodes gigabytes of data
- Can Self-Replicate
- Built-in Error Correction
- Is the basis of life

Watson & Crick 1953

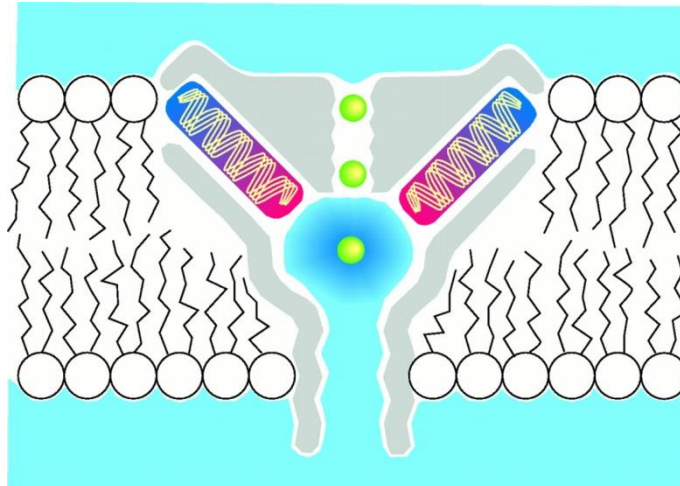
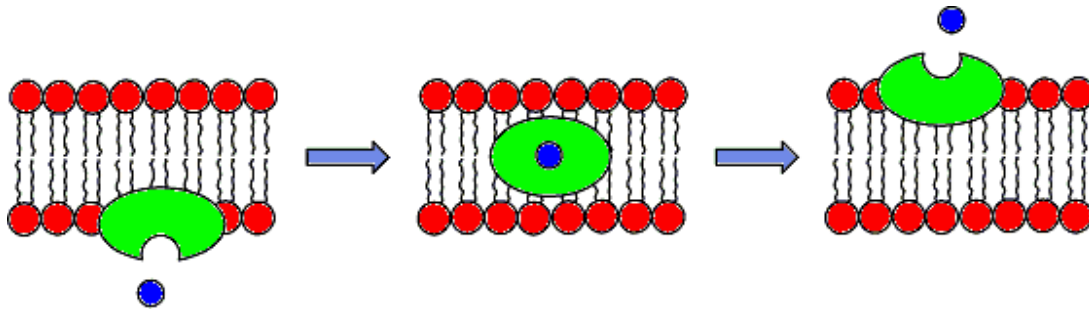
The original inspiration: Supramolecular systems in Nature

PROTEINS



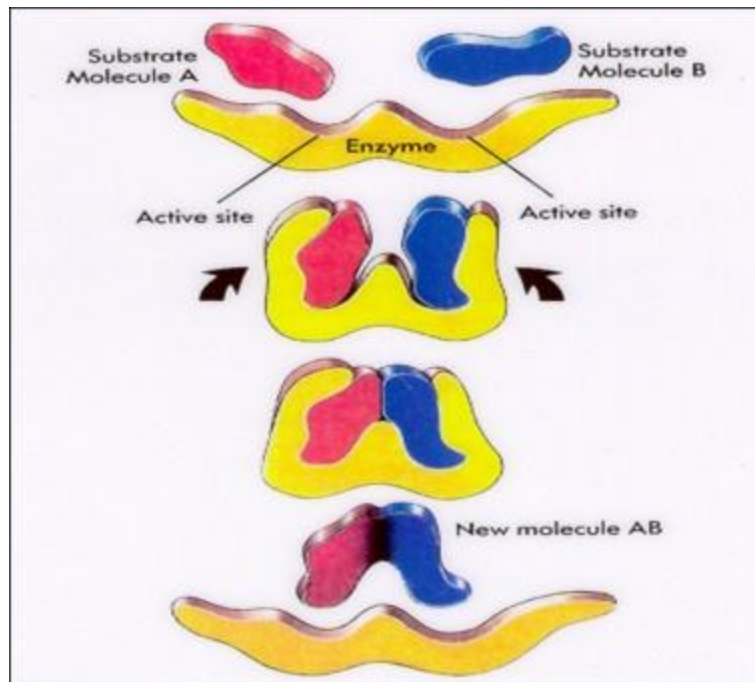
The original inspiration: Supramolecular systems in Nature

MEMBRANES and TRANSMEMBRANE CARRIERS



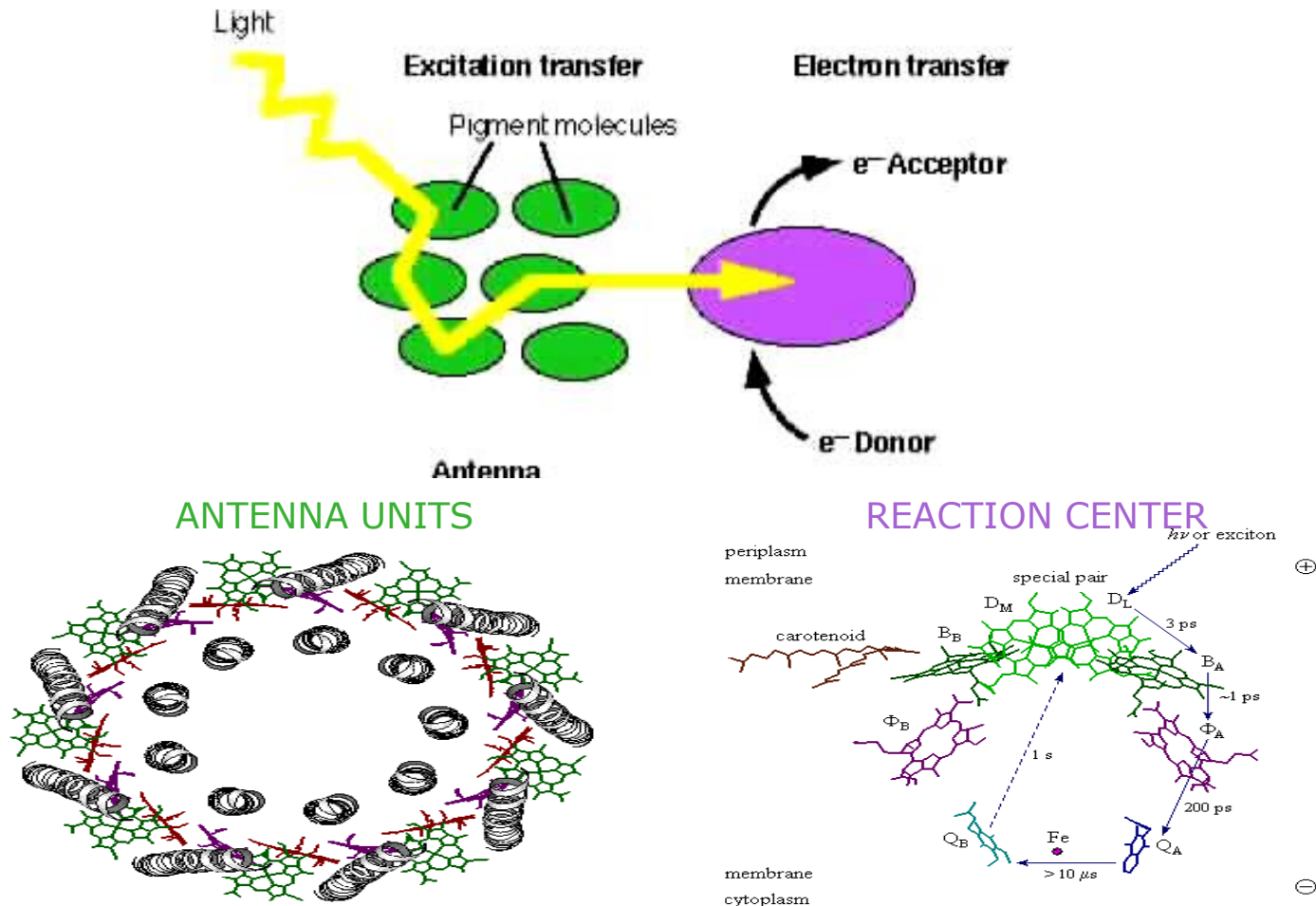
The original inspiration: Supramolecular systems in Nature

ENZYMES



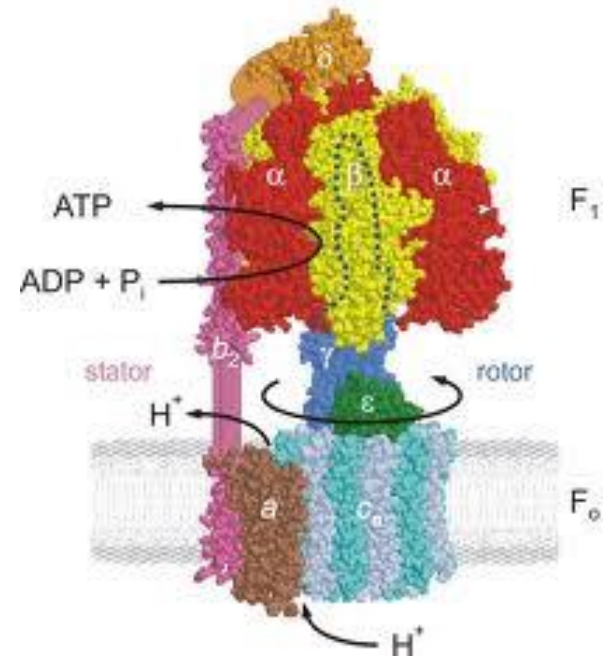
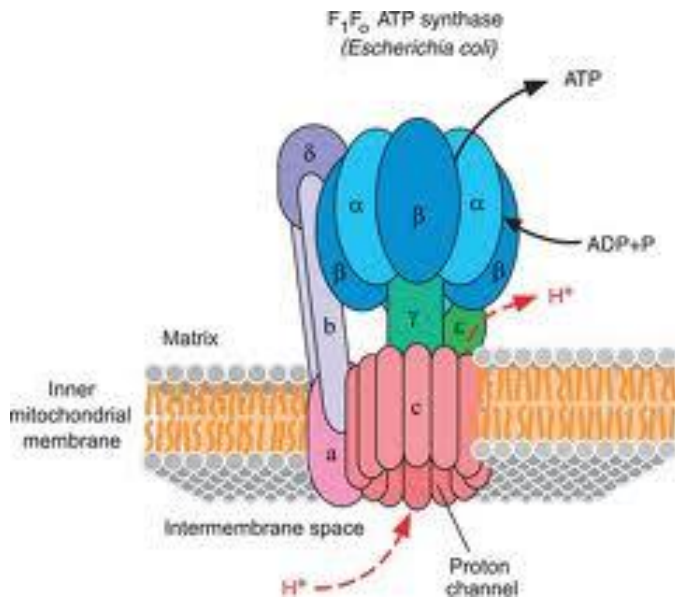
The original inspiration: Supramolecular systems in Nature

THE PHOTOSYNTHETIC APPARATUS

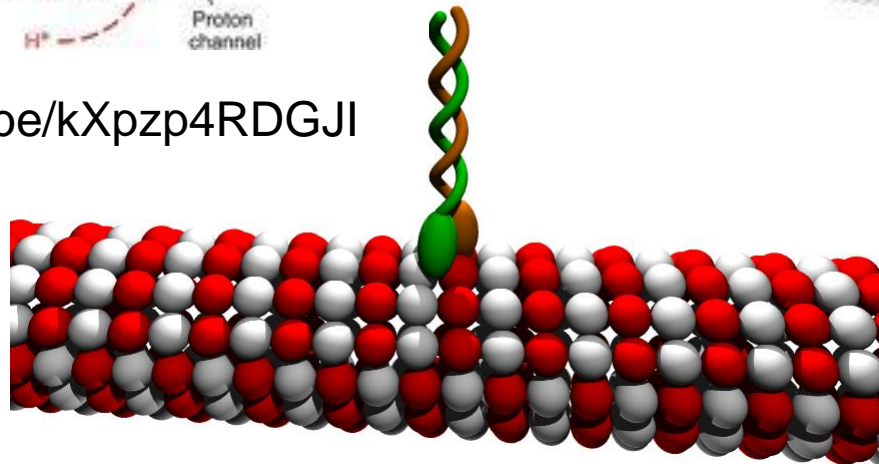


The original inspiration: Supramolecular systems in Nature

ATP Synthase and KINESIN



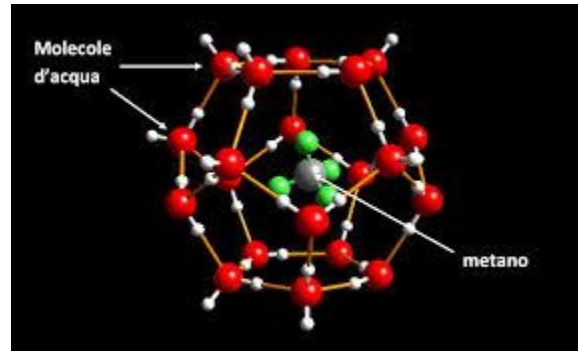
<https://youtu.be/kXpzp4RDGJI>



<https://youtu.be/y-uuk4Pr2i8>

The original inspiration: Supramolecular systems in Nature

METHANE CLATHRATE (Siberian craters)



Supramolecular Chemistry - definitions

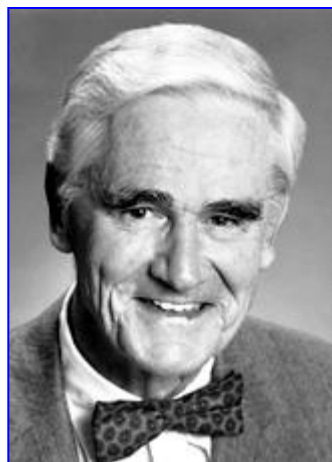
- the chemistry **beyond the molecules**: molecules are already formed
- the chemistry of molecular **assemblies** and of the **intermolecular bond**: association of molecules
- the chemistry of the **non covalent bond**: weak interactions

Bottom-up approach

Nano objects

Smart and functional materials

Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1987



Donald J. Cram



Jean-Marie Lehn



Charles J. Pedersen

«for their development and use of molecules with structure-specific interactions of high selectivity»

http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/chemistry/laureates/1987/

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2016



J-P. Sauvage



Sir J. F. Stoddart



B. L. Feringa

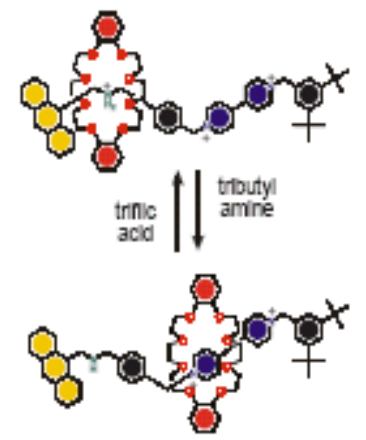
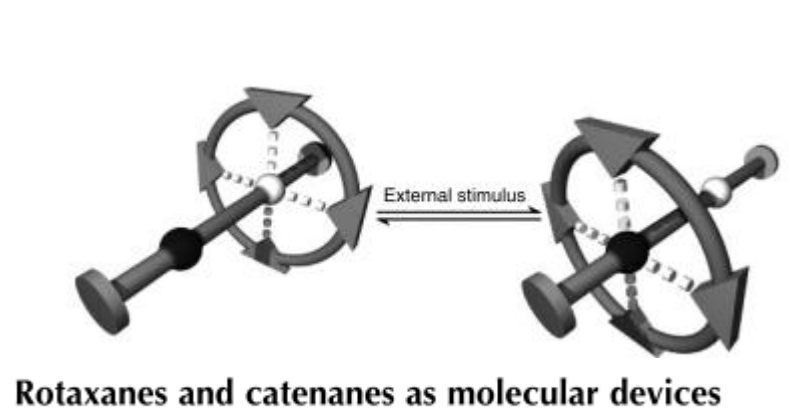
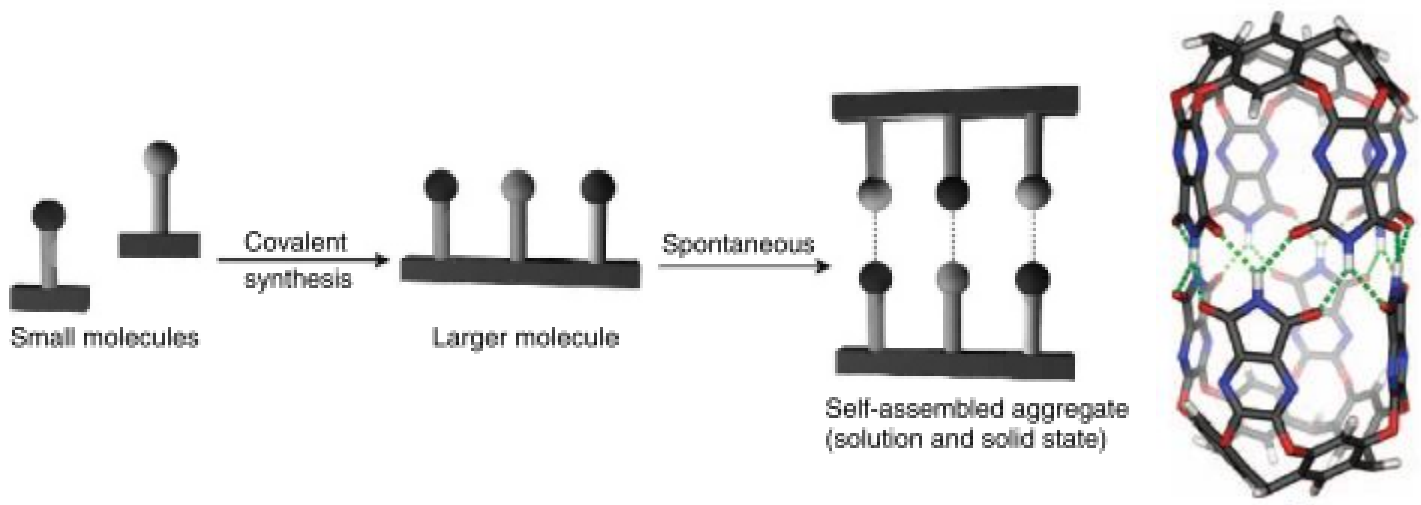
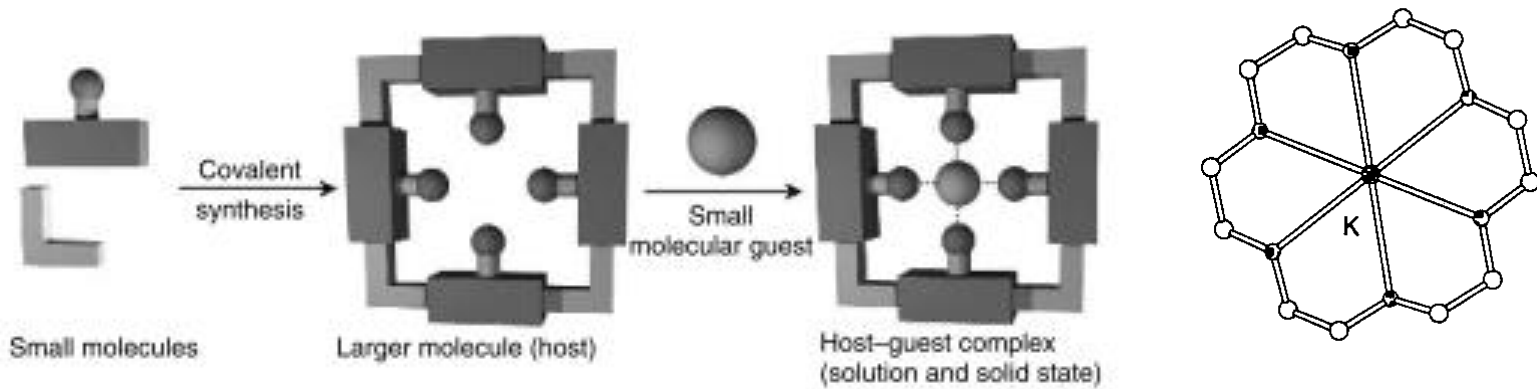
"for the design and synthesis of molecular machines"

https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/chemistry/laureates/2016/

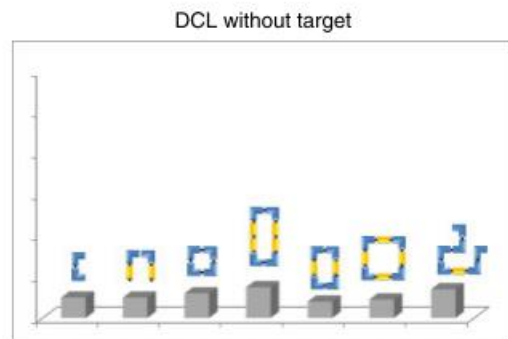
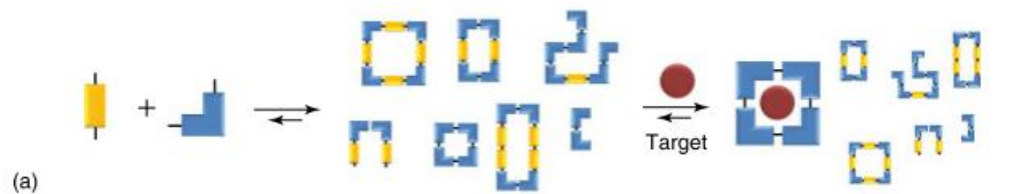
The missed Nobel Prize



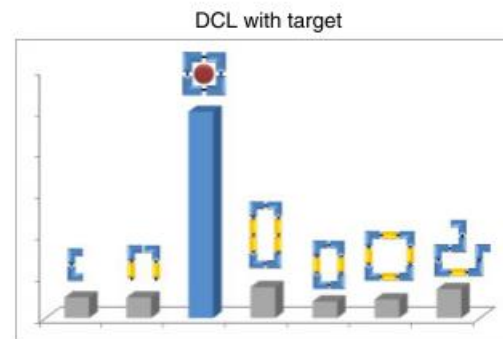
Prof. Vincenzo Balzani, Emeritus Professor University of Bologna



DYNAMIC COMBINATORIAL LIBRARIES



(b) $A_1 \leftrightarrow A_2 \leftrightarrow A_3 \leftrightarrow A_4 \leftrightarrow A_5 \leftrightarrow A_6 \leftrightarrow A_7$



$A_1 \leftrightarrow A_2 \leftrightarrow (A_3 \cdot T) \leftrightarrow A_4 \leftrightarrow A_5 \leftrightarrow A_6 \leftrightarrow A_7$

Supramolecular systems chemistry

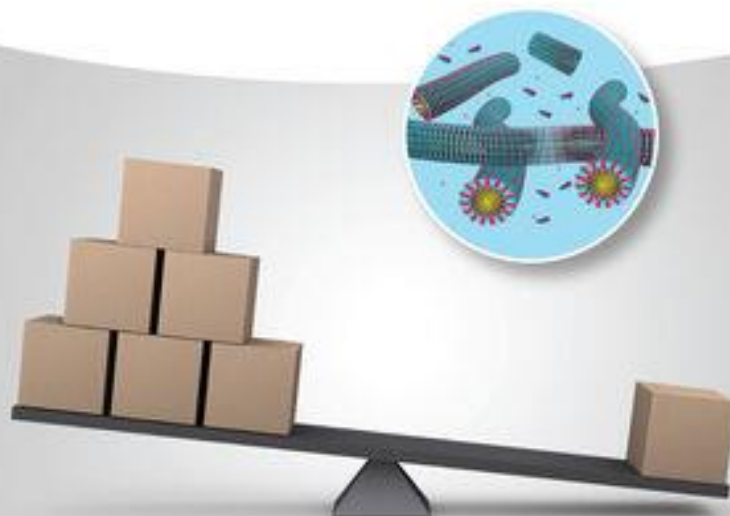
Elio Mattia and Sijbren Otto*

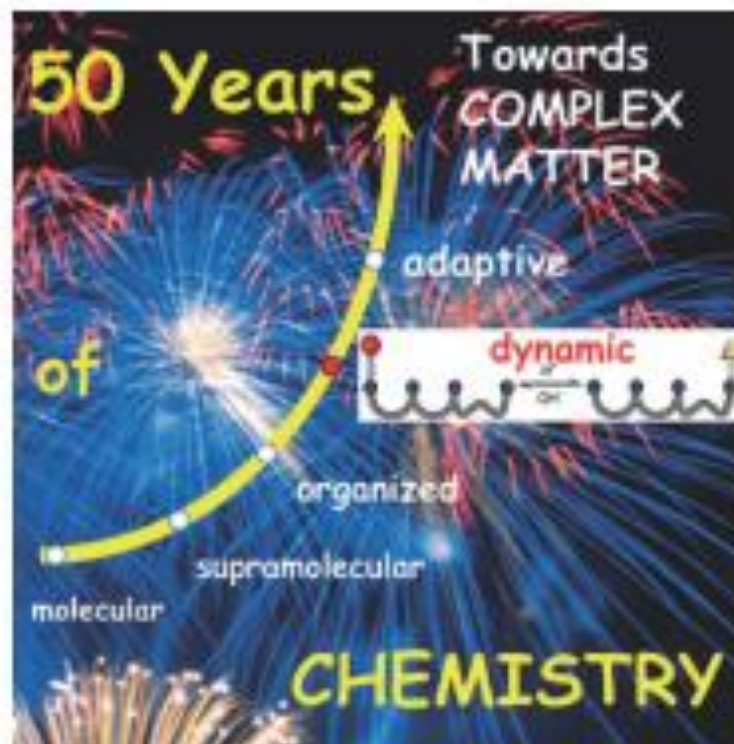
The field of supramolecular chemistry focuses on the non-covalent interactions between molecules that give rise to molecular recognition and self-assembly processes. Since most non-covalent interactions are relatively weak and form and break without significant activation barriers, many supramolecular systems are under thermodynamic control. Hence, traditionally, supramolecular chemistry has focused predominantly on systems at equilibrium. However, more recently, self-assembly processes that are governed by kinetics, where the outcome of the assembly process is dictated by the assembly pathway rather than the free energy of the final assembled state, are becoming topical. Within the kinetic regime it is possible to distinguish between systems that reside in a kinetic trap and systems that are far from equilibrium and require a continuous supply of energy to maintain a stationary state. In particular, the latter systems have vast functional potential, as they allow, in principle, for more elaborate structural and functional diversity of self-assembled systems – indeed, life is a prime example of a far-from-equilibrium system. In this Review, we compare the different thermodynamic regimes using some selected examples and discuss some of the challenges that need to be addressed when developing new functional supramolecular systems.

WILEY-VCH

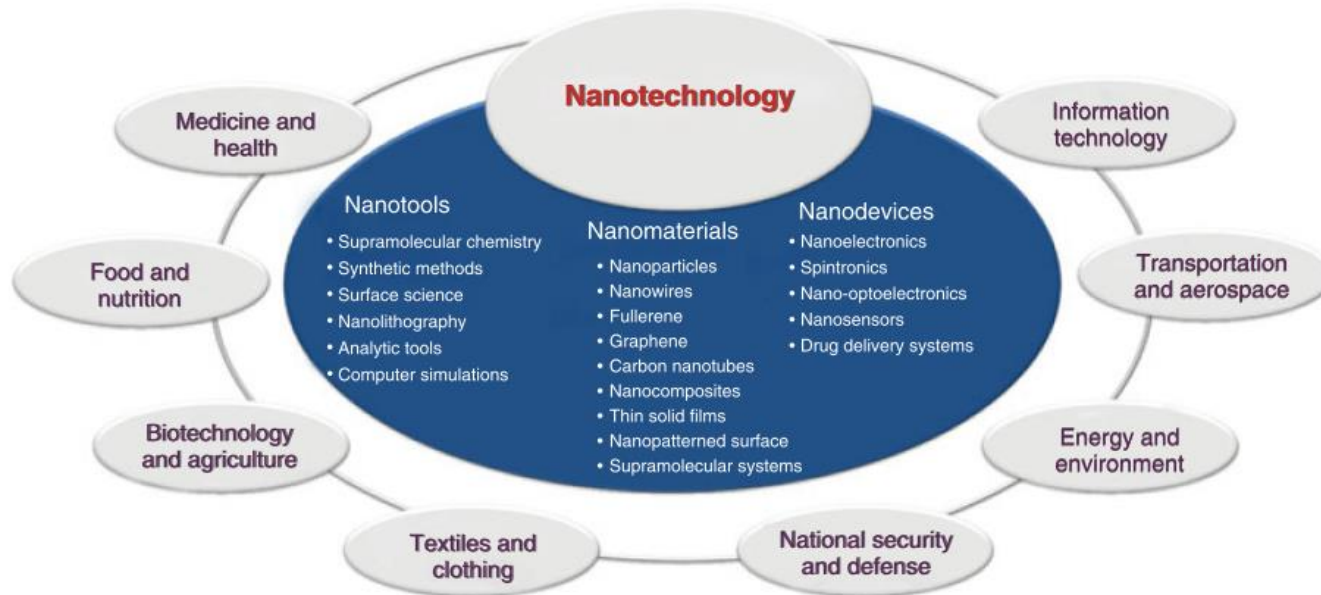
Edited by Nicolas Giuseppone
and Andreas Walther

Out-of-Equilibrium (Supra)molecular Systems and Materials





From Supramolecular Chemistry to Nanotechnology



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3. J. W. Steed, D. R. Turner, K. J. Wallace *Core Concepts in Chemistry and Nanochemistry*, Wiley, Chichester, **2007**.
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7. P. J. Cragg *A Practical Guide to Supramolecular Chemistry*, J. Wiley & Sons, UK, **2005**.
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Core Concepts in Supramolecular Chemistry and Nanochemistry

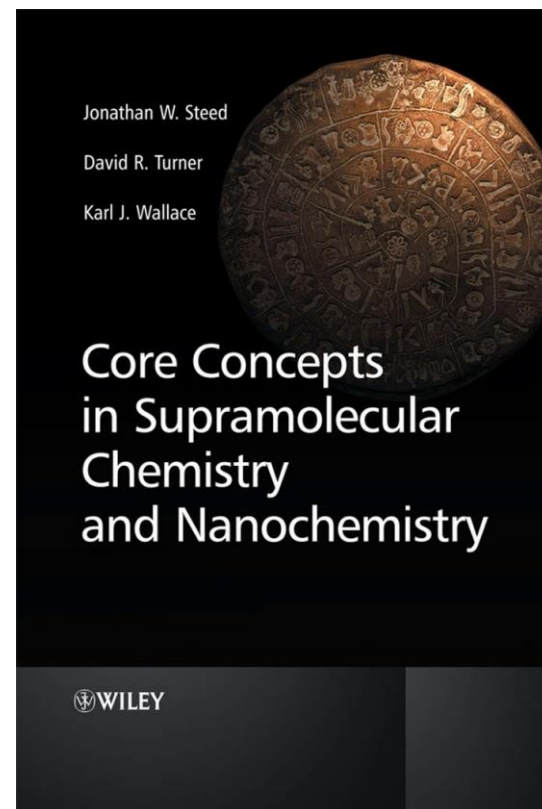
Jonathan W. Steed,
Durham University, UK

David R. Turner,
Monash University, Australia

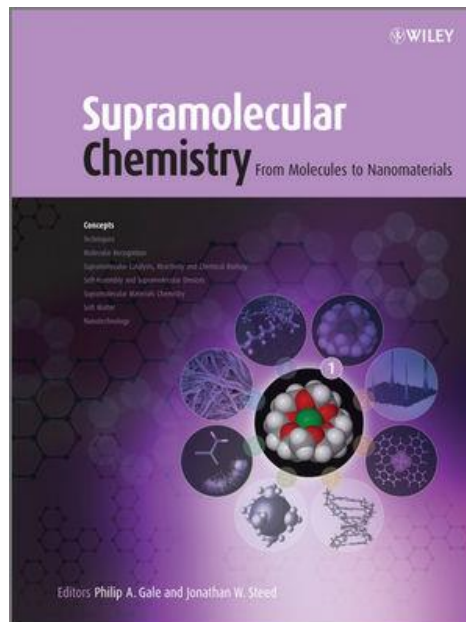
Karl J. Wallace,
University of Southern Mississippi, USA



John Wiley & Sons, Ltd

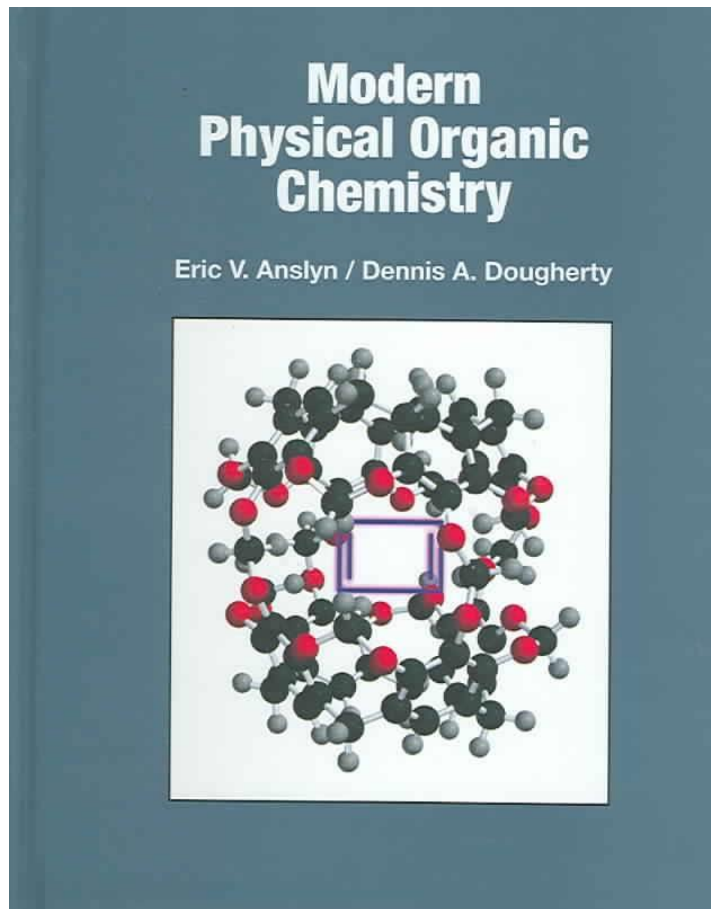


Bibliography



Supramolecular Chemistry: From Molecules to Nanomaterials, 8 Volume Set
[Jonathan W. Steed](#) (Editor-in-Chief), [Philip A. Gale](#) (Editor-in-Chief), Wiley.

Bibliography



[Eric V. Anslyn](#), [Dennis A. Dougherty](#)
University Science Books, 2006

Program

Non-covalent Interactions

Analytical Methods in Supramolecular Chemistry – a snapshot

Receptors for Cations

Receptors for Anions

Examples from the Literature – Paper Discussion

Cavitands

Covalent Molecular Containers

H-bonded Molecular Containers

Applications and examples from the Literature – Paper Discussion

Program

Helicates

Catenanes

Rotaxanes

Knots

Paper Discussion

Molecular Machines

(chemical/electrochemical/photochemical stimuli)

Paper Discussion

Out of Equilibrium Systems (2h?)

Paper Discussion

*(Dr. Giulio Ragazzon ISIS – Institut de Science et d'Ingenierie
Supramoleculaires, Strasbourg, France)*

Material on Moodle

Notes and Chapter on Analytical Methods

 Notes 

 Chapter on Analytical Methods 

+ Aggiungi un'attività o una risorsa

SLIDES PARTS 1-2

 PART 1   Amanote PDF

Material on Moodle

⌵ **PAPERS DISCUSSION - OCTOBER** ✎ ⋮

📁 Discussion ✎ ⋮

📁 Supplementary Materials ✎ ⋮

+ Aggiungi un'attività o una risorsa

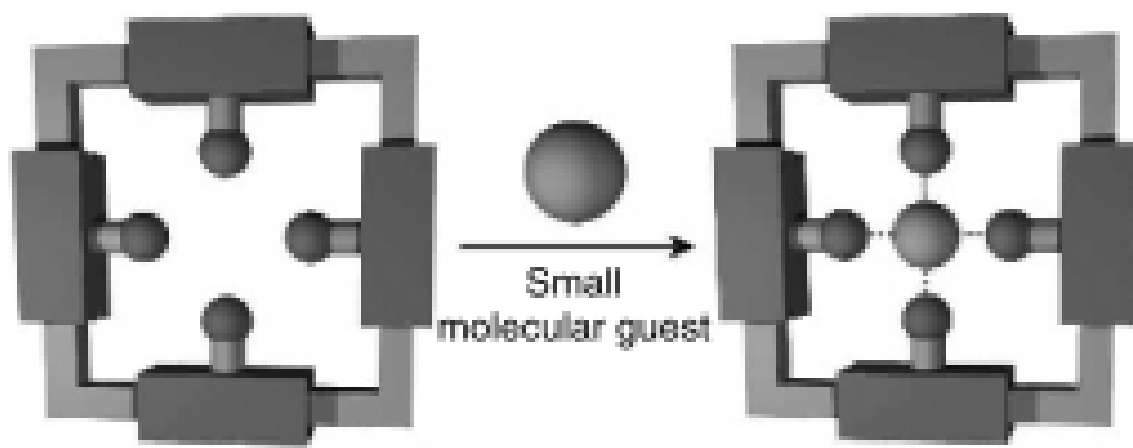
⌵ **PAPERS DISCUSSION - NOVEMBER** ✎ ⋮

📁 Discussion ✎ ⋮



RECORDING ON MStTeams

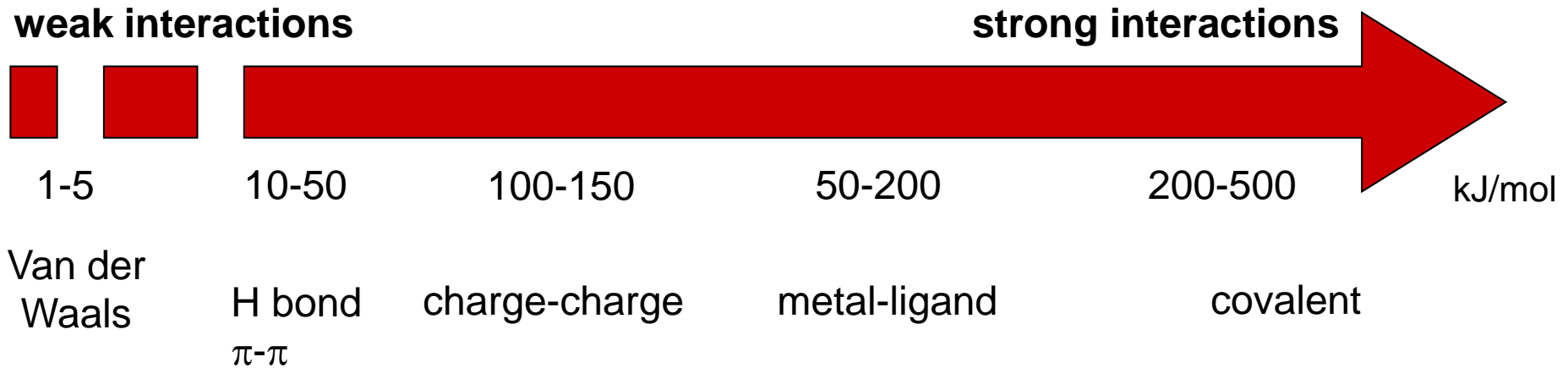
Oral Exam (Discussion of a Literature Paper)



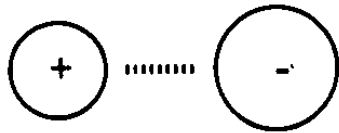
Weak (Reversible) Intermolecular Interactions

- Electrostatic
- π - π
- Cation- π / Anion- π /CH- π
- H Bonding
- Halogen Bonding
- Metal-Ligand Coordination
- Reversible Covalent Bonding
- Chelate Effect
- Macrocyclic Effect
- Hydrophobic Effect

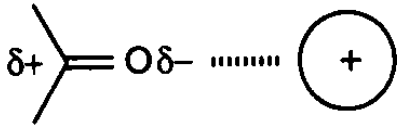
Weak (Reversible) Intermolecular Interactions



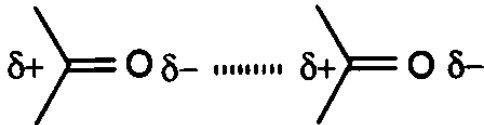
Electrostatic Interactions



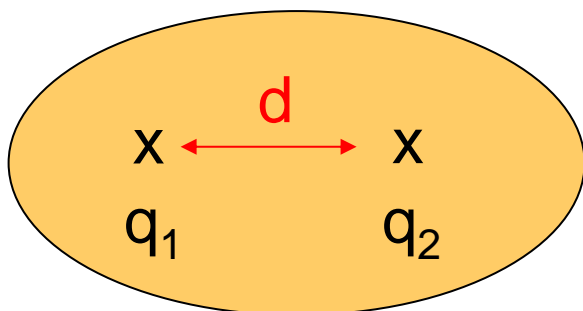
Charge-Charge Interactions 100-350 kJ/mol



Dipole-Charge Interactions 50-200 kJ/mol



Dipole-Dipole Interactions 5-50 kJ/mol



$$W = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{\epsilon d} \quad (\text{J})$$

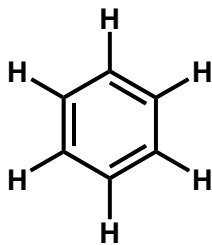

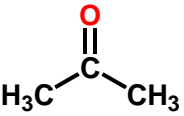
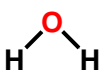
vacuum permittivity

dielectric constant (nature of solvent)

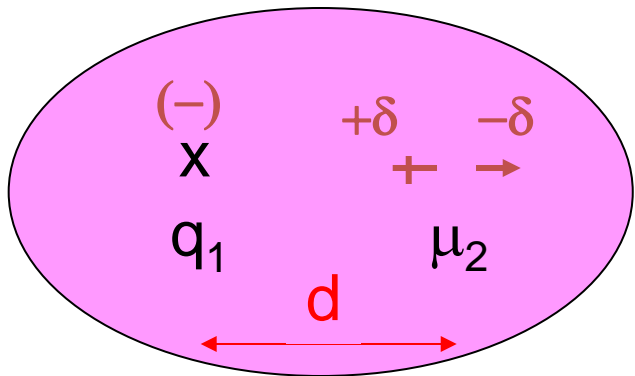
$$\epsilon(\text{vacuum}) = 1$$

apolar medium $\Leftrightarrow \epsilon$ small (~ 2)
 polar medium $\Leftrightarrow \epsilon$ big ($\text{H}_2\text{O} \sim 80$)

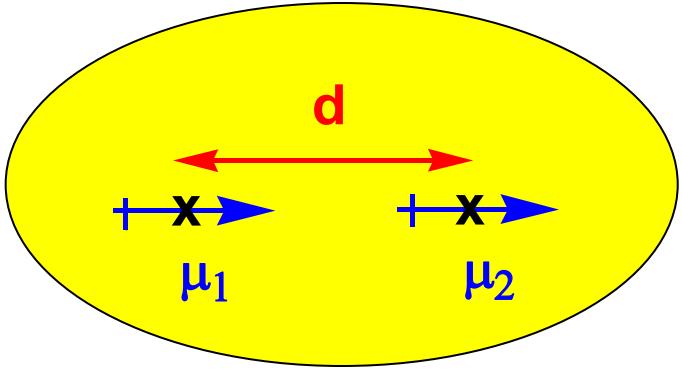
dielectric constant of the solvent

		ϵ	
Benzene		2,3	apolar  polar
Acetone		20,7	
Ethanol	$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$	24,3	
water		78,5	

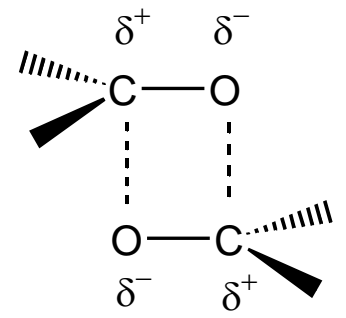
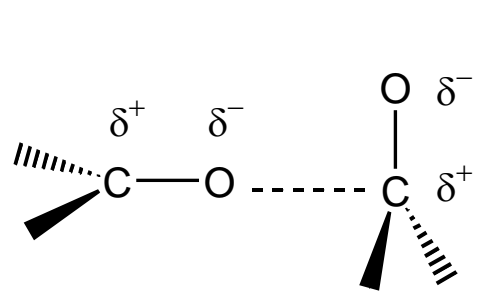
$\epsilon = 78.5 \quad d = 0.5 \text{ nm} \Rightarrow W = 3.75 \text{ kJ.mol}^{-1}$
 $\epsilon = 2 \quad d = 0.5 \text{ nm} \Rightarrow W = 140 \text{ kJ.mol}^{-1}$



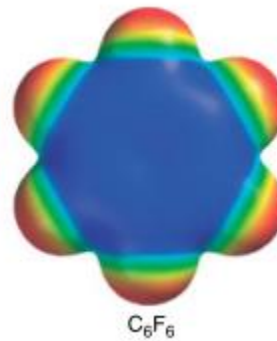
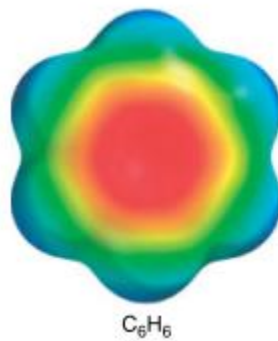
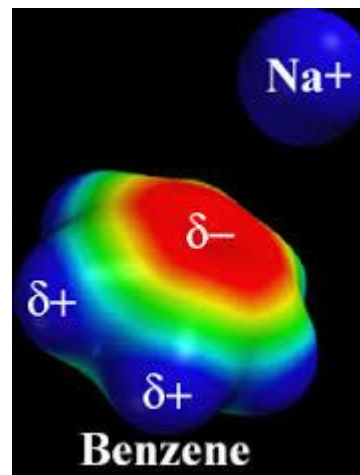
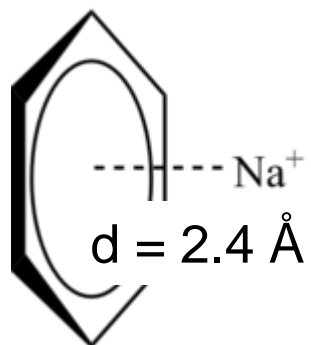
$$W = - C^{te} x \frac{|q| \mu_2}{\epsilon d^2}$$



$$W = - C^{te} \frac{\mu_1 \mu_2}{\epsilon d^3}$$



Cation- π Interactions



Cation– π Interaction: Its Role and Relevance in Chemistry, Biology, and Material Science

A. Subha Mahadevi and G. Narahari Sastry*

ACCOUNTS

of chemical research

Vol. 46, No. 4 ■ 2013 ■ 885–893 ■ ACCOUNTS OF CHEMICAL RESEARCH |

The Cation– π Interaction

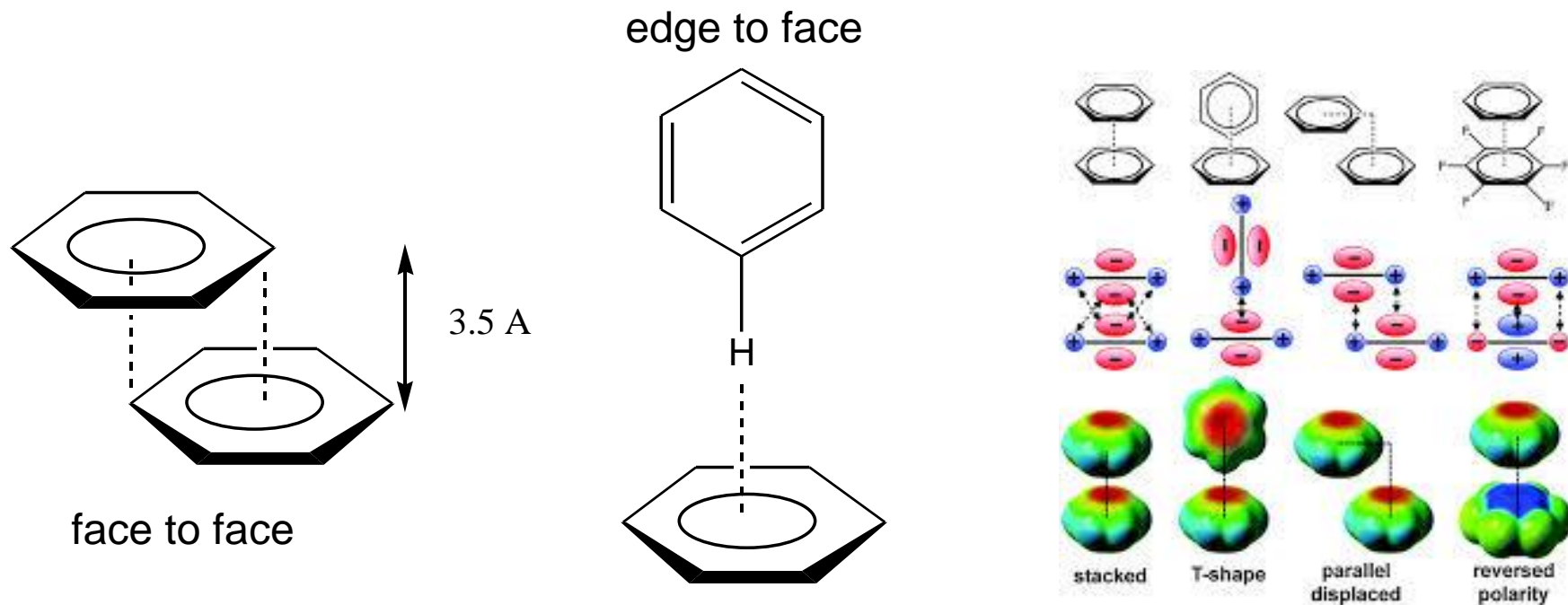
DENNIS A. DOUGHERTY

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The Cation– π Interaction

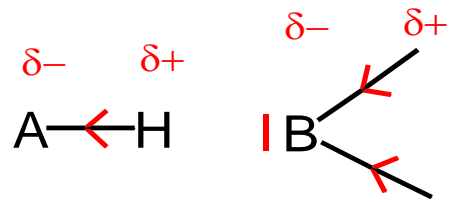
Jennifer C. Ma and Dennis A. Dougherty*

π - π Interactions up to 50 kJ/mol

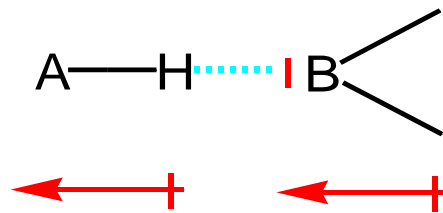


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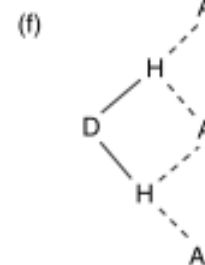
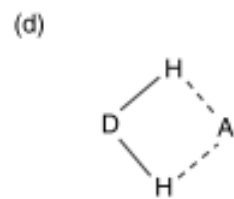
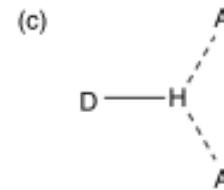
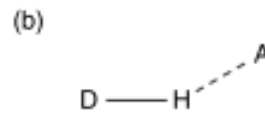
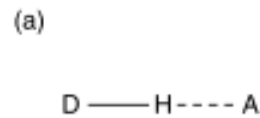
H Bond 4-120 kJ/mol

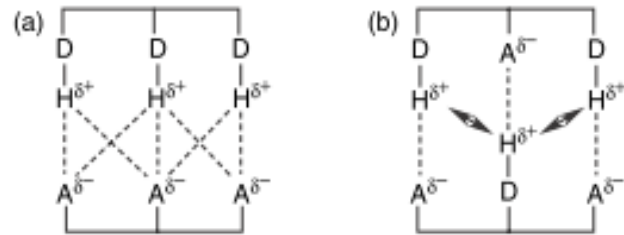


A, B electronegative or
electrondeficient atoms



permanent dipoles



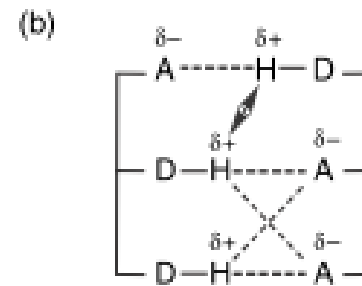
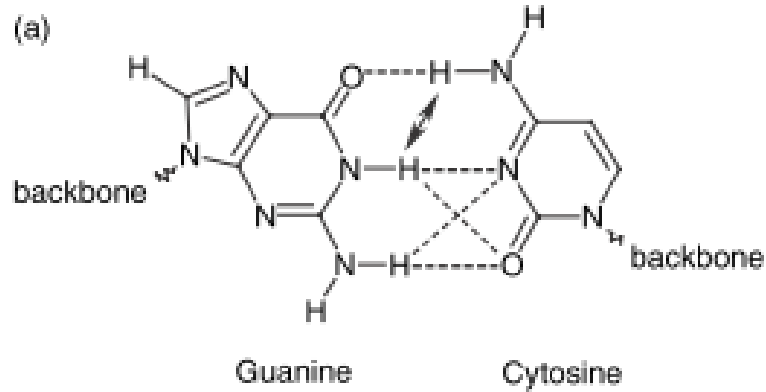


D Donor

A Acceptor

----- Attractive interaction

↔ Repulsive interaction

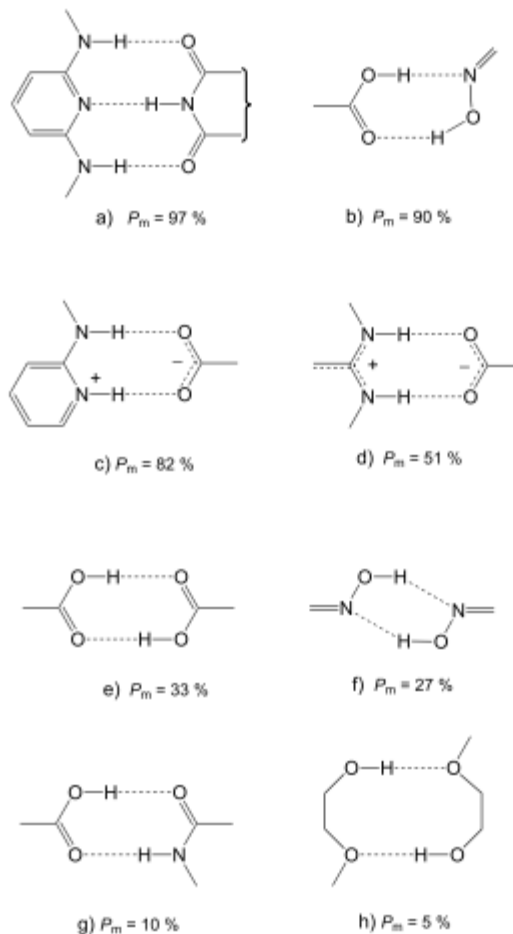


	Strong	Moderate	Weak
interaction type	strongly covalent	mostly electrostatic	electrostat./dispers.
bond lengths [Å]			
H...A	1.2–1.5	1.5–2.2	> 2.2
lengthening of X–H [Å]	0.08–0.25	0.02–0.08	< 0.02
X–H versus H...A	X–H ≈ H...A	X–H < H...A	X–H ≪ H...A
X...A [Å]	2.2–2.5	2.5–3.2	> 3.2
directionality	strong	moderate	weak
bond angles [°]	170–180	> 130	> 90
bond energy [kcal mol ⁻¹]	15–40	4–15	< 4
relat. IR shift $\Delta\tilde{\nu}_{\text{XH}}$ [cm ⁻¹]	25 %	10–25 %	< 10 %
¹ H downfield shift	14–22	< 14	

The Hydrogen Bond in the Solid State

Thomas Steiner*

Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **2002**, *41*, 48–76



Scheme 17. Eight examples of intermolecular hydrogen bond motifs with their probability of formation (P_m) in crystals.^[122] Notice that P_m of the carboxy-oxime heterodimer (b) is much higher than that of the carboxylic acid (e) and oxime homodimers (f).

Halogen Bond

In 2009 the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) started a project (project no. 2009-032-1-100) having the aim “ to take a comprehensive look at intermolecular interactions involving halogens as electrophilic species and classify them”

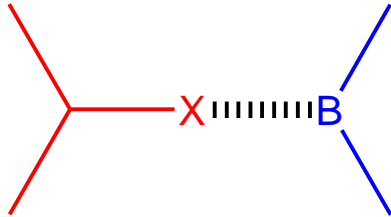
<http://www.halogenbonding.eu/>

<http://www.iupac.org/web/ins/2009-032-1-100>

An IUPAC recommendation defining these interactions as halogen bonds was issued in 2013 when the project was concluded: This definition states that

“ A halogen bond occurs when there is evidence of a net attractive interaction between an electrophilic region associated with a halogen atom in a molecular entity and a nucleophilic region in another, or the same, molecular entity. ”

Halogen Bond



B : Lewis base (neutral or anionic)

X : electron-poor halogen atom

- Very directional (180° , but also other geometries)
- As strong as H-bond
- Often encountered in solid state, more rarely in solution

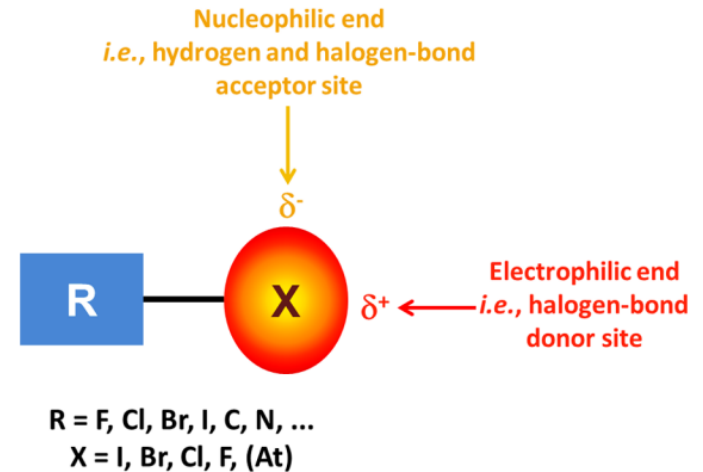
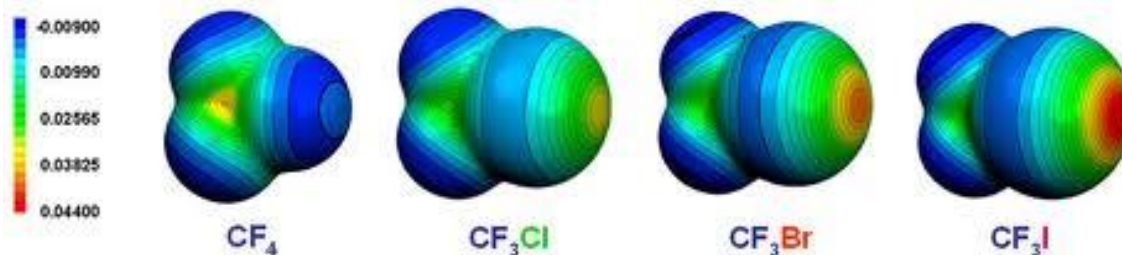


Figure 21. Schematic representation of the anisotropic distribution of the electron density around covalently bound halogen atoms and the pattern of the resulting interactions.



molecule	atom	bond producing a σ -hole
H ₃ C-F	F	C-F
H ₃ C-Cl	Cl	C-Cl
H ₃ C-Br	Br	C-Br
H ₃ C-I	I	C-I
F ₃ C-F	F	C-F
F ₃ C-Cl	Cl	C-Cl
F ₃ C-Br	Br	C-Br
F ₃ C-I	I	C-I
NC-F	F	C-F
NC-Cl	Cl	C-Cl
NC-Br	Br	C-Br
NC-I	I	C-I
Dihalogens		
F-F	F	F-F
Cl-Cl	Cl	Cl-Cl
Br-Br	Br	Br-Br
Focus on Bromine		
Br-C≡C-Br	Br	C-Br
H ₃ Si-Br	Br	C-Br
F ₃ Si-Br	Br	Si-Br
H ₃ Ge-Br	Br	Ge-Br
H ₂ N-Br	Br	N-Br
F ₂ N-Br	Br	N-Br
H ₂ P-Br	Br	P-Br
F ₂ P-Br	Br	P-Br
HO-Br	Br	O-Br
FO-Br	Br	O-Br
HS-Br	Br	S-Br
FS-Br	Br	S-Br
F-Br	Br	F-Br
Cl-Br	Br	Cl-Br

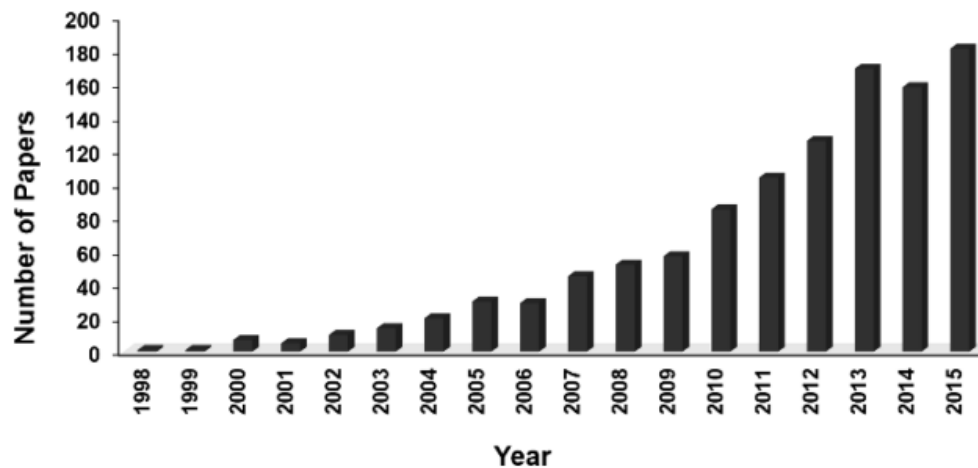
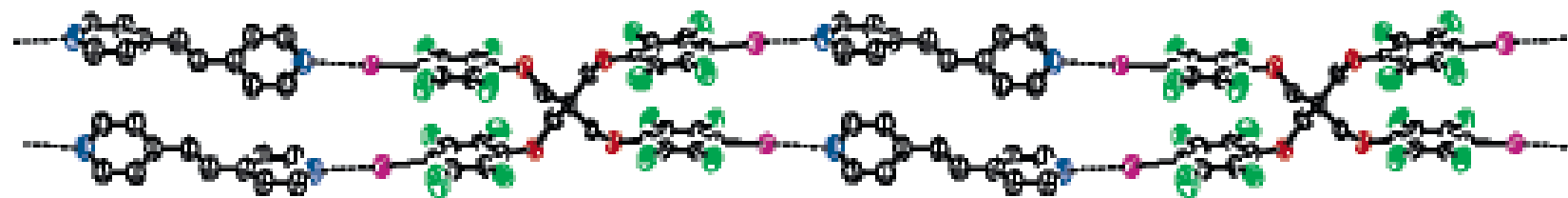
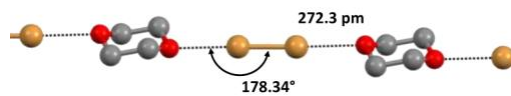
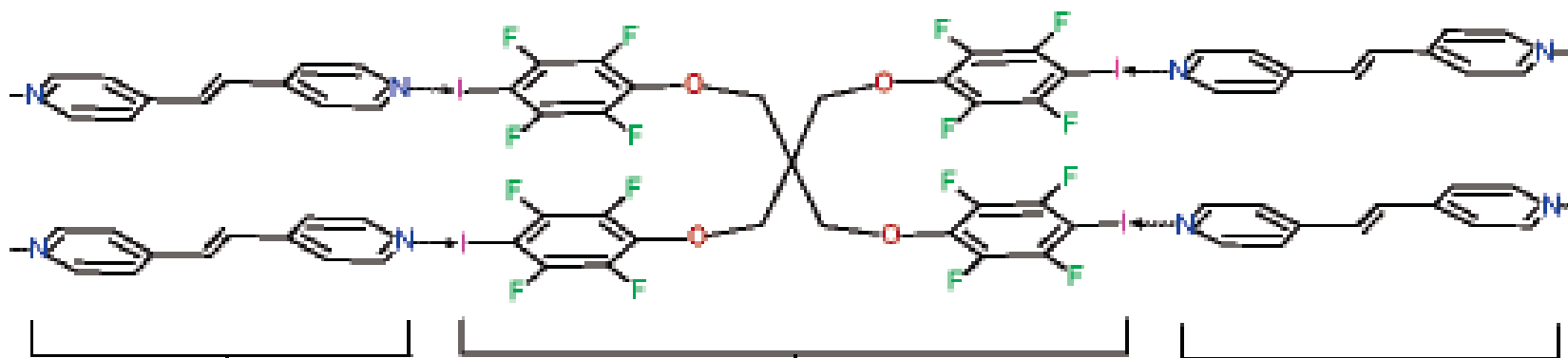


Figure 5. Number of papers per year having “halogen bonding” in the title and/or abstract (source SciFinder, search performed in November 2015).



14



Anion- π Interactions

Proposed by three research groups of theoreticians independently in 2002 based on their theoretical calculations, anion- π interactions are defined as attractive interactions between negatively charged species and electron-deficient aromatic rings.

Typical anion- π interaction indicates the attraction of an anion species to the centroid of an aromatic ring.

In comparison to a plethora of theoretical calculations of anion- π interactions, experimental studies on these intriguing noncovalent bond interactions are limited.

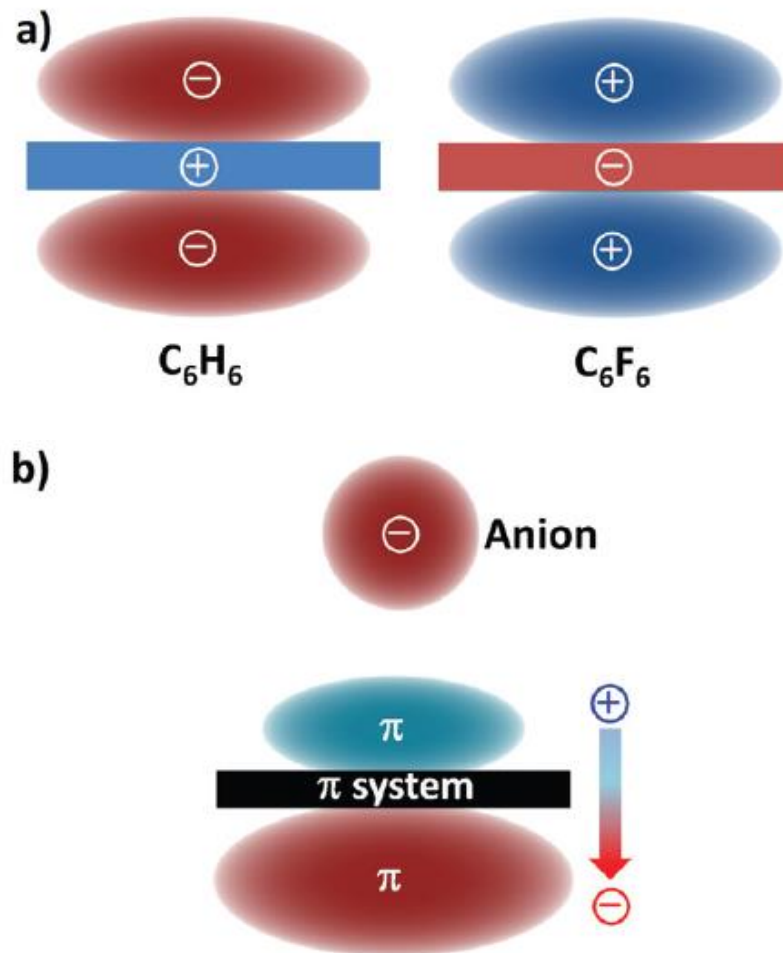


Fig. 1 (a) Schematic representation of the quadrupole moments of benzene (C_6H_6 ; $Q_{zz} = -8.45$ B) and hexafluorobenzene (C_6F_6 ; $Q_{zz} = +9.50$ B)²¹ and (b) the ion-induced dipole²² (the molecular polarizabilities parallel to the main symmetry axis are $\alpha_{||} = 41.5$ and 37.7 a.u. (a.u. stands for atomic units), for benzene and hexafluorobenzene respectively).

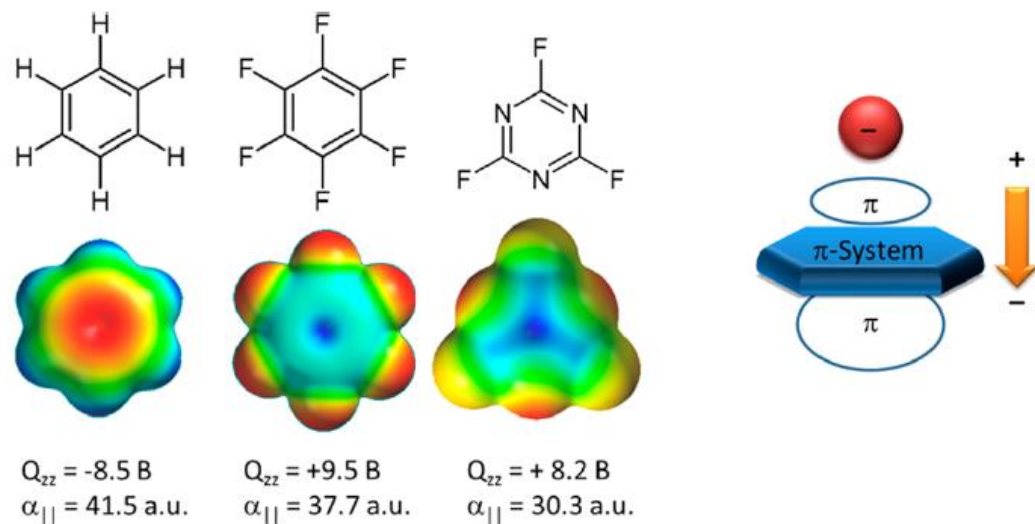


Figure 5. Structures and electron-density surfaces of selected arenes showing low electron density (blue region) in the aromatic core of C_6F_6 and $\text{C}_3\text{N}_3\text{F}_3$ (left). In addition the concept of “anion-induced dipole moment” is illustrated (right).⁸⁸

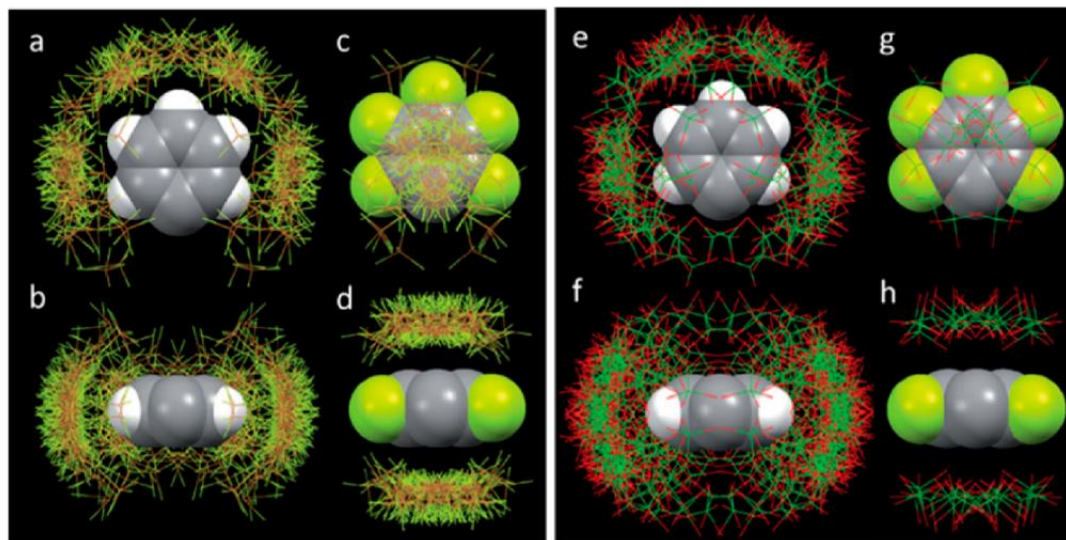


Figure 20. IsoStar plots showing anion contacts between C_6H_5 and BF_4^- (a and b) and ClO_4^- (e and f) as well as anion- π interactions between C_6F_5 and BF_4^- (c and d) and ClO_4^- (g and h). Reproduced and adapted with permission from ref 22. Copyright 2011 John Wiley and Sons.

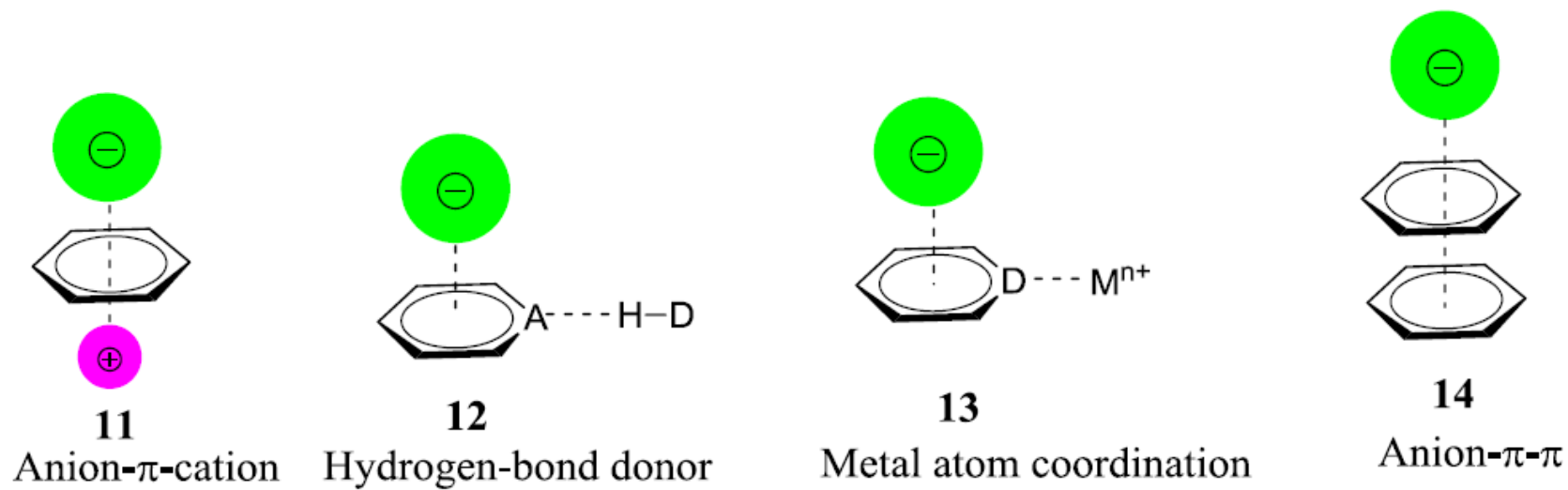


Fig. 4. Illustration of diverse factors affecting the strength of anion- π interactions.

Emergence of anion- π interactions: The land of opportunity in supramolecular chemistry and beyond

Ishfaq Ahmad Rather, Shafieq Ahmad Wagay, Rashid Ali*

Anion- π Interactions with Fluoroarenes

Michael Giese,^{*,†} Markus Albrecht,^{*,‡} and Kari Rissanen^{*,§}

DOI: 10.1021/acs.chemrev.5b00156
Chem. Rev. 2015, 115, 8867–8895

The anion- π interaction: naissance and establishment of a peculiar supramolecular bond

Cite this: *Inorg. Chem. Front.*, 2014, 1, 35

Patrick Gamez^{a,b}

Supramolecular Chemistry

DOI: 10.1002/anie.201100208

Putting Anion- π Interactions Into Perspective

Antonio Frontera,^{*} Patrick Gamez,^{*} Mark Mascal,^{*} Tiddo J. Mooibroek,^{*} and Jan Reedijk^{*}
Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2011, 50, 9564–9583

Metal-Ligand Interaction

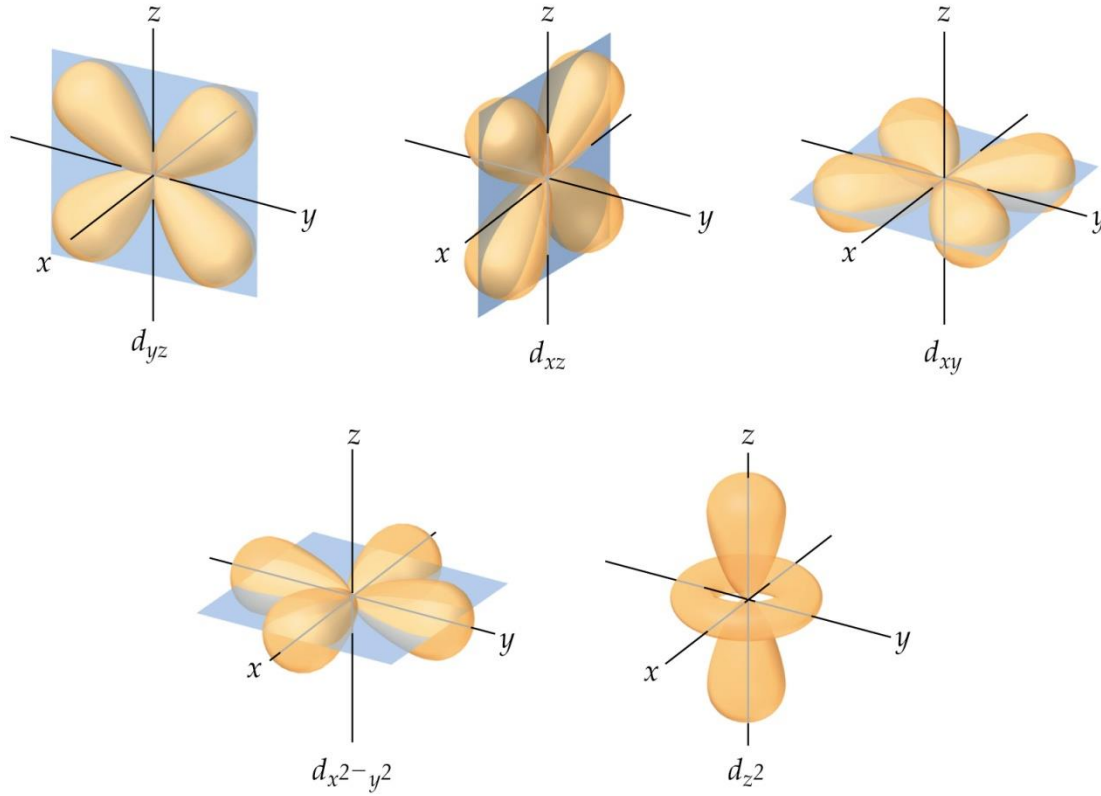
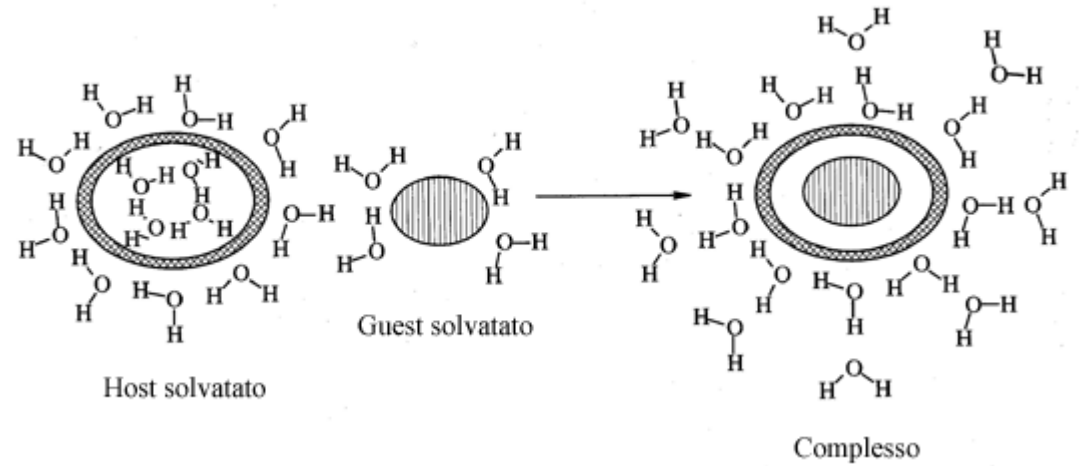
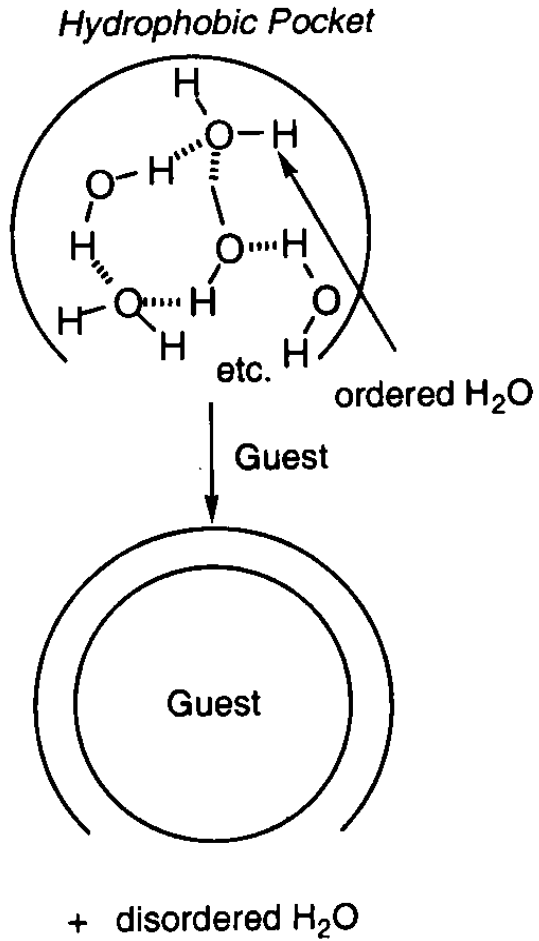


Table 1 Reversible covalent reactions.

C=N exchange	
Transamination	$R_1-\text{C}=\text{N}-R_2 + R_3-\text{C}=\text{N}-R_4 \xrightleftharpoons{\text{Acid}} R_1-\text{C}=\text{N}-R_4 + R_3-\text{C}=\text{N}-R_2$
Hydrazone exchange	$R_1-\text{C}=\text{N}-\overset{\text{H}}{\text{N}}-R_2 + R_3-\text{C}=\text{N}-\overset{\text{H}}{\text{N}}-R_4 \xrightleftharpoons{\text{Acid}} R_1-\text{C}=\text{N}-\overset{\text{H}}{\text{N}}-R_4 + R_3-\text{C}=\text{N}-\overset{\text{H}}{\text{N}}-R_2$
Oxime exchange	$R_1-\text{C}=\text{N}-\text{O}^-R_2 + R_3-\text{C}=\text{N}-\text{O}^-R_4 \xrightleftharpoons{\text{Acid}} R_1-\text{C}=\text{N}-\text{O}^-R_4 + R_3-\text{C}=\text{N}-\text{O}^-R_2$
Acyl exchange	
Transesterification	$R_1-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{O}-R_2 + R_3-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{O}-R_4 \xrightleftharpoons{\text{Base}} R_1-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{O}-R_4 + R_3-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{O}-R_2$
Transthioesterification	$R_1-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{S}-R_2 + R_3-\text{S}-\text{H} \xrightleftharpoons{\text{Base}} R_1-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{S}-R_3 + R_2-\text{S}-\text{H}$
Transamidation	$R_1-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{N}-R_2 + R_3-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{N}-R_4 \xrightleftharpoons{\text{Protease or metal}} R_1-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{N}-R_4 + R_3-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{N}-R_2$
Michael-addition	$R_1-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-R_2 + R_3-\text{S}-\text{H} \xrightleftharpoons{\text{Base}} R_1-\text{CH}(\text{S}-R_3)-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}(=\text{O})-R_2$
Miscellaneous	
Disulfide exchange	$R_1-\text{S}-\text{S}-R_2 + R_3-\text{S}-\text{S}-R_4 \xrightleftharpoons{\text{R}^-\text{S}} R_1-\text{S}-\text{S}-R_4 + R_3-\text{S}-\text{S}-R_2$
Boronic ester exchange	$R_1-\text{B}(\text{OR}_2)(\text{OR}_3) + \text{HO}-\text{C}(\text{R}_6)(\text{R}_7)-\text{OH} \xrightleftharpoons{\text{Base}} R_1-\text{B}(\text{OR}_6)(\text{OR}_7) + \text{HO}-\text{C}(\text{R}_2)(\text{R}_3)-\text{OH}$
Olefin metathesis	$R_1-\text{C}=\text{C}-R_2 + R_3-\text{C}=\text{C}-R_4 \xrightleftharpoons{\text{Grubbs catalyst}} R_1-\text{C}=\text{C}-R_4 + R_3-\text{C}=\text{C}-R_2$
Acetal exchange	$R_1-\text{C}(\text{OR})(\text{OR}') + R_3-\text{C}(\text{OR}')(\text{OR}) \xrightleftharpoons{\text{Acid}} R_1-\text{C}(\text{OR}')(\text{OR}) + R_3-\text{C}(\text{OR})(\text{OR}')$
Diels-Alder	$\text{Diene} + \text{Dienophile} \rightleftharpoons \text{Cyclohexene derivative}$

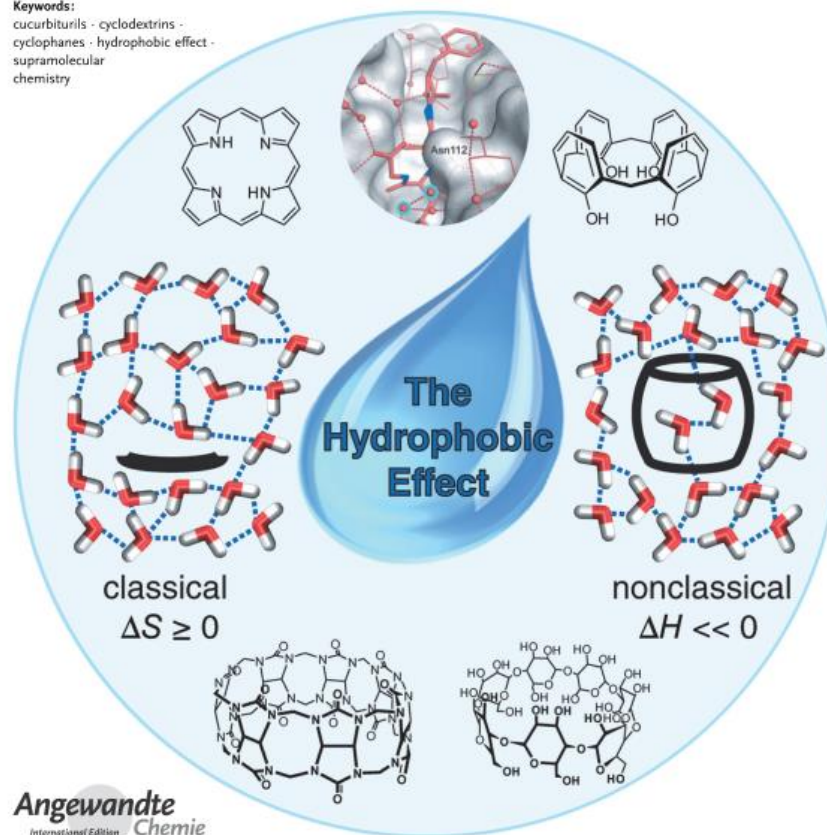
Hydrophobic Effect

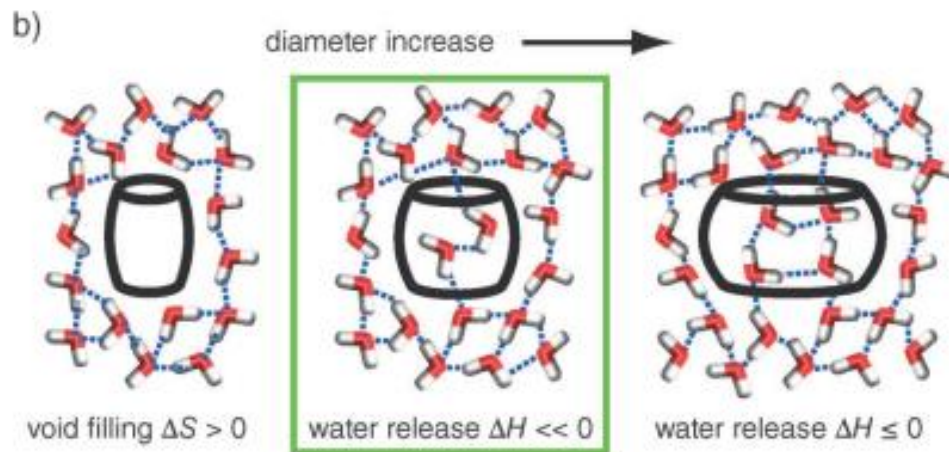
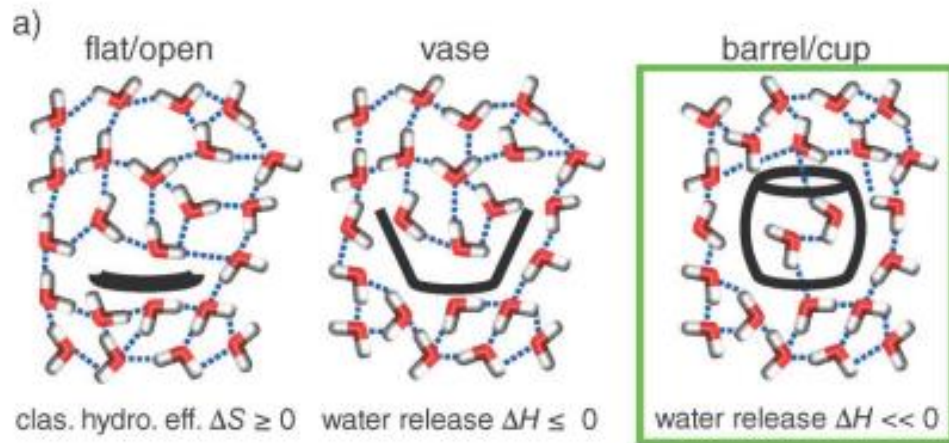


The Hydrophobic Effect Revisited—Studies with Supramolecular Complexes Imply High-Energy Water as a Noncovalent Driving Force

Frank Biedermann,* Werner M. Nau,* and Hans-Jörg Schneider*

Keywords:
cucurbiturils · cyclodextrins ·
cyclophanes · hydrophobic effect ·
supramolecular
chemistry



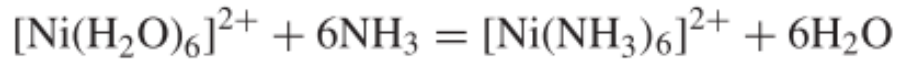
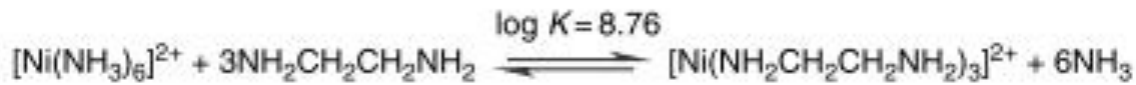


Chelate Effect

(a)

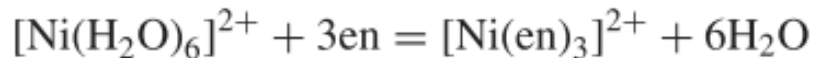


(b)



$$\beta \sim 10^9, \Delta G = -51.8 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1},$$

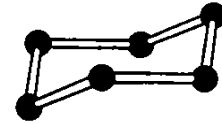
$$\Delta H = -100 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}, \Delta S = -163 \text{ J mol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$$



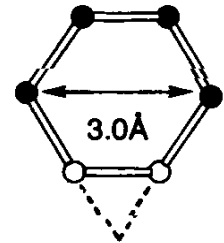
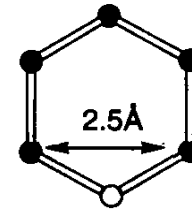
$$\beta \sim 10^{18}, \Delta G = -101.8 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1},$$

$$\Delta H = -117 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}, \Delta S = -42 \text{ J mol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$$

Chair form of cyclohexane

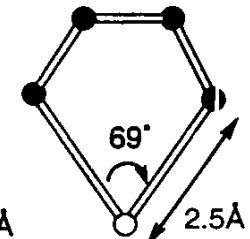
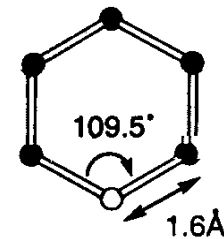


all C-C-C angles are 109.5°



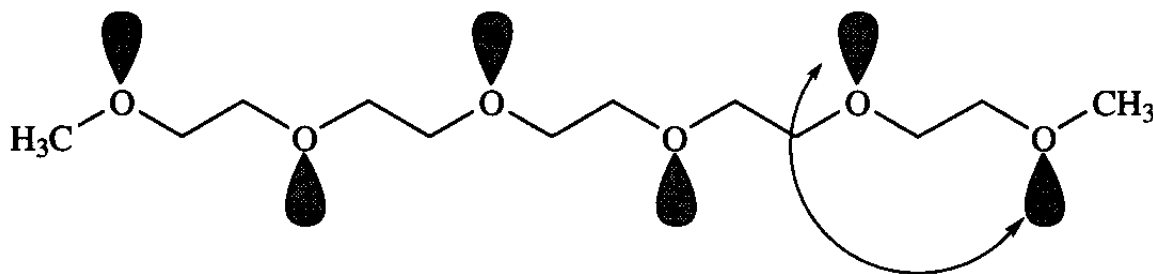
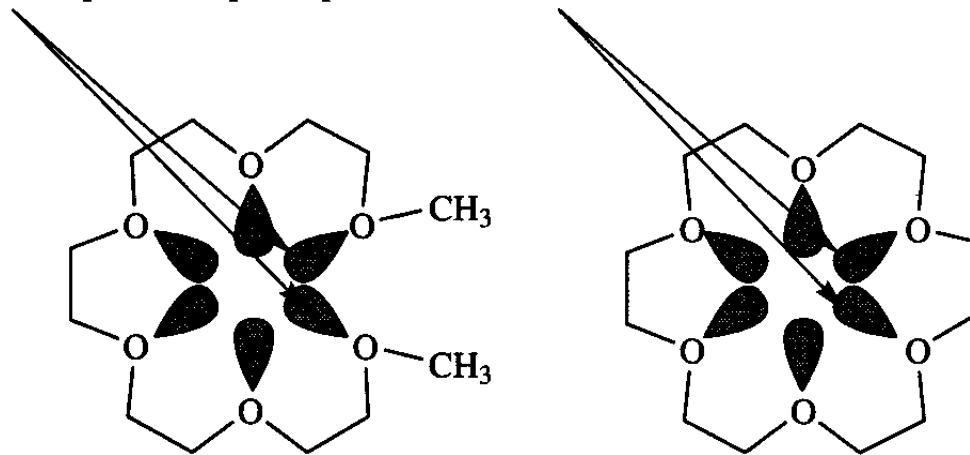
bite size in
six membered
rings

bite size in
five
membered rings



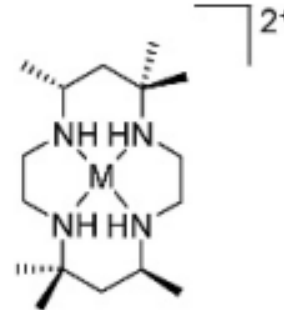
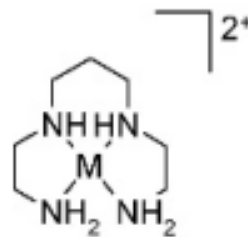
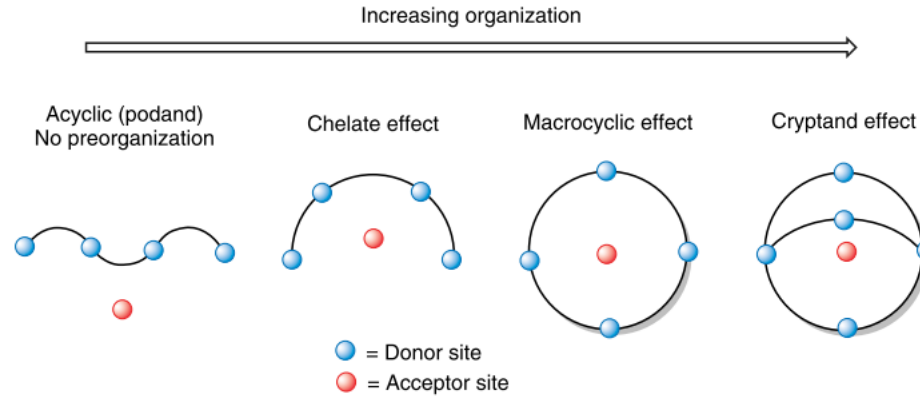
Macrocyclic Effect

Lone pair–lone pair repulsive interaction



Very little repulsion

Macrocyclic Effect





M = Zn, Cu

Stabilità: Sistema Ciclico 10^4 superiore Sistema Aciclico



Assessing cooperativity in supramolecular systems†

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Larissa K. S. von Krbek,^{‡a} Christoph A. Schalley  ^{*a} and Pall Thordarson  ^{*b}