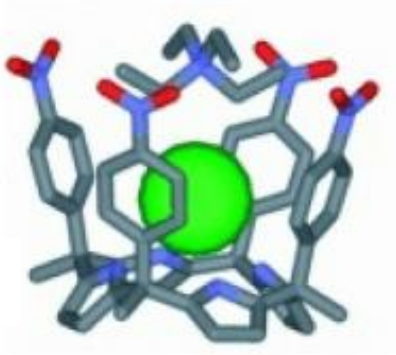
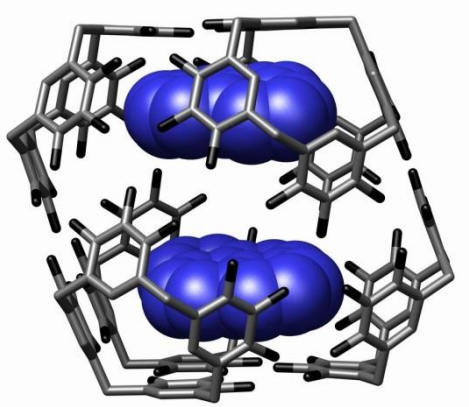


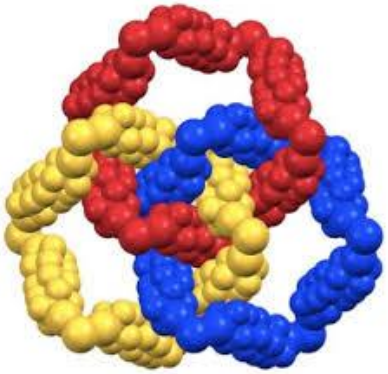


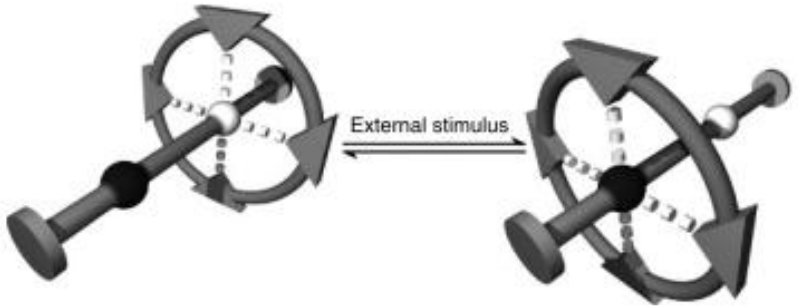
Supramolecular Chemistry

6 CFU - Master Degree in Chemistry @Units

AA 2025/2026

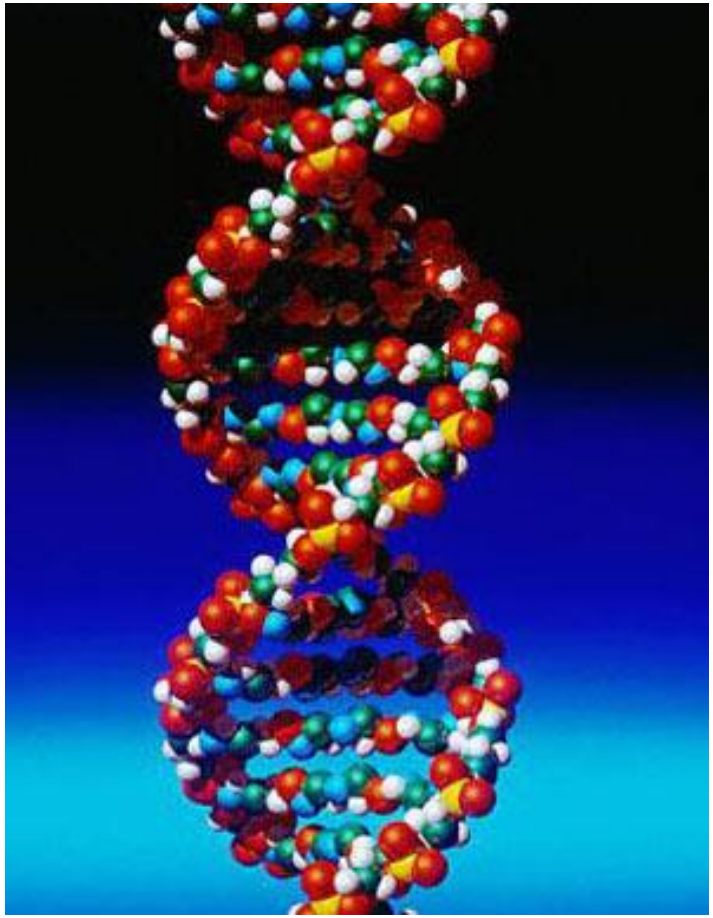
Prof. Elisabetta Iengo
eiengo@units.it

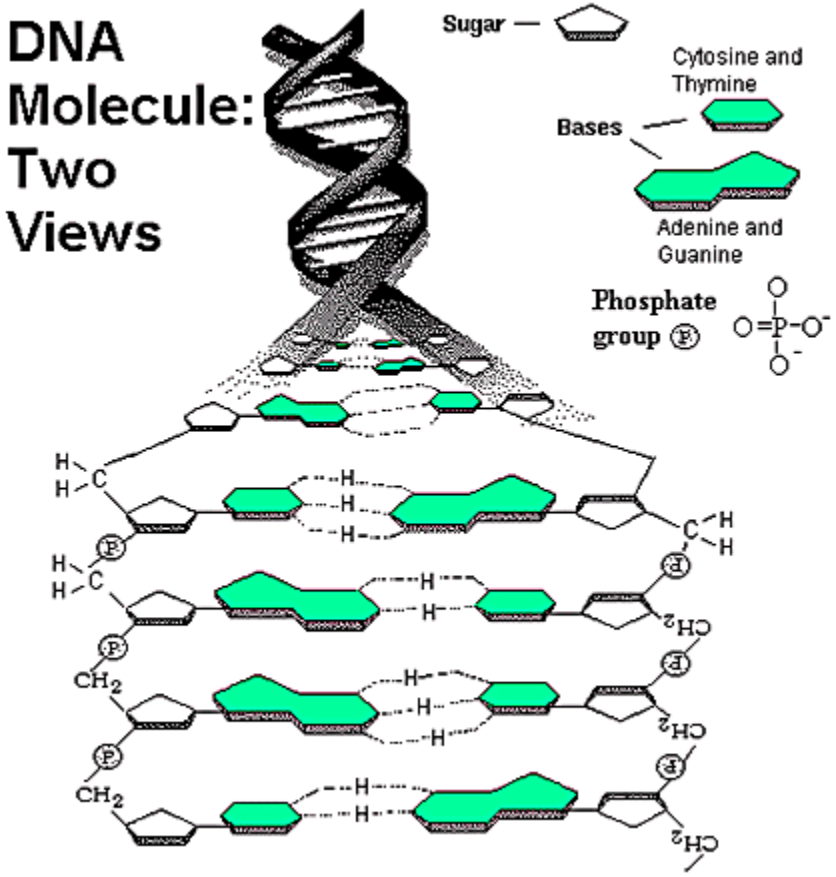




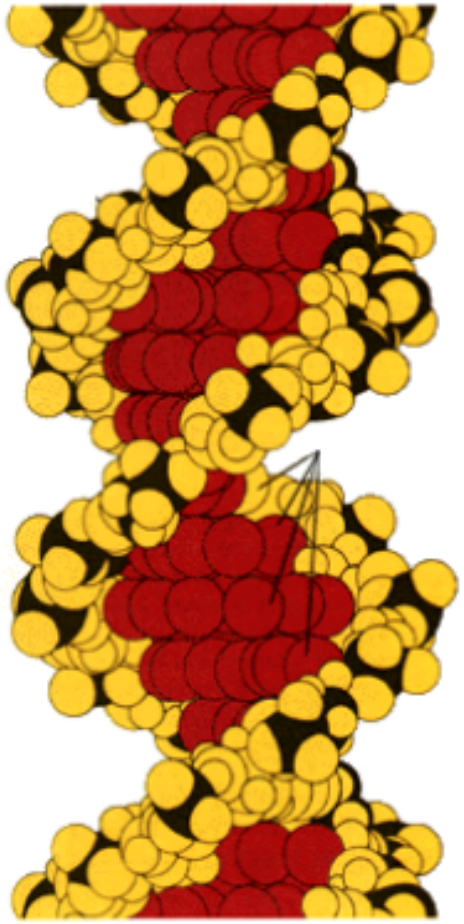
The original inspiration: Supramolecular systems in Nature

DNA





Information Storage



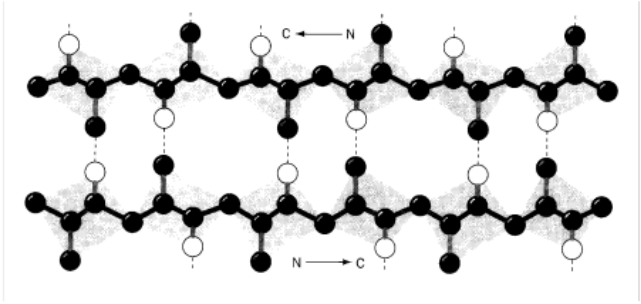
Watson & Crick 1953

The ultimate supramolecular material?

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

The original inspiration: Supramolecular systems in Nature

PROTEINS



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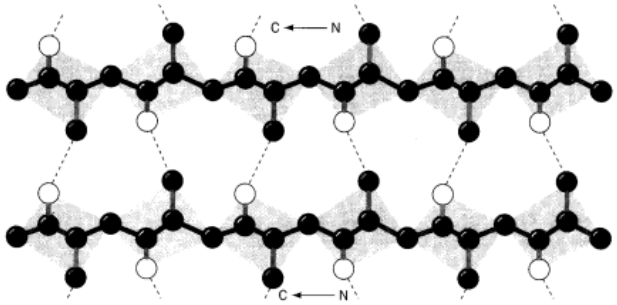
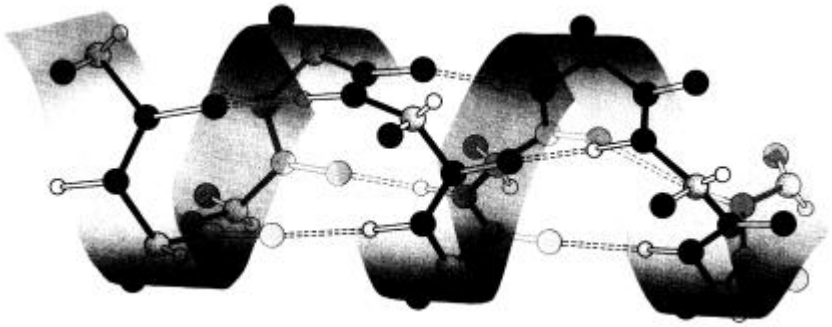
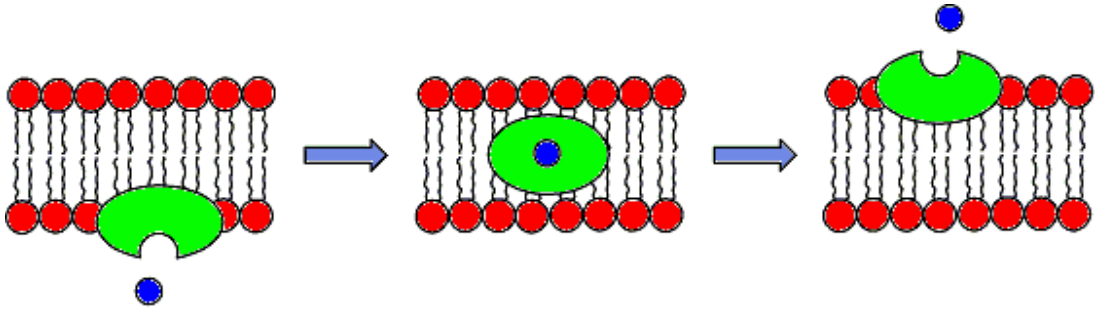
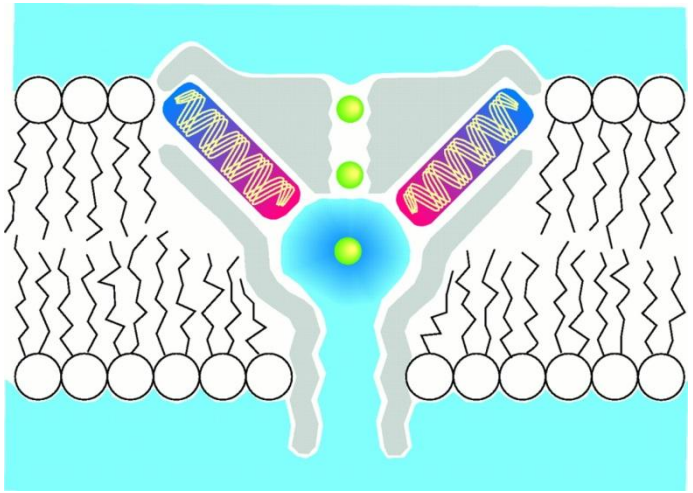




The original inspiration: Supramolecular systems in Nature

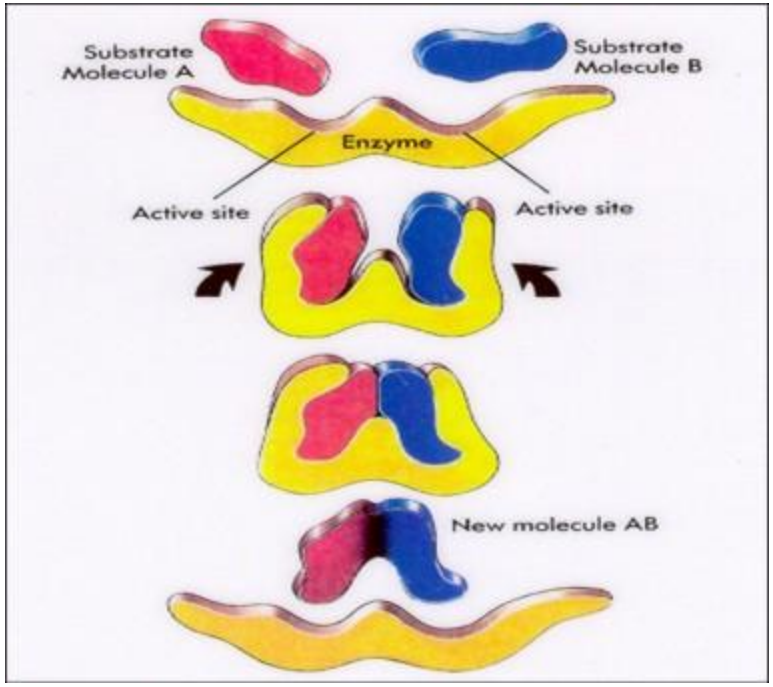
MEMBRANES and TRANSMEMBRANE CARRIERS





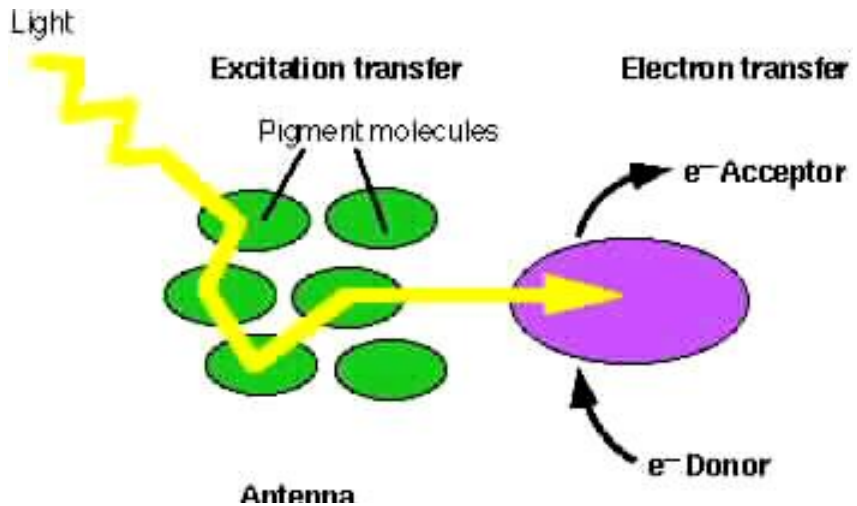
The original inspiration: Supramolecular systems in Nature

ENZYMES

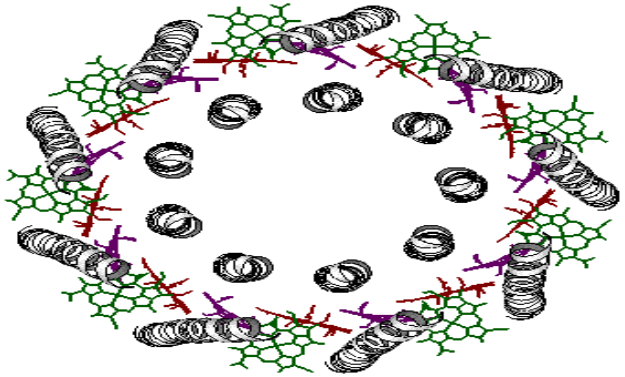


The original inspiration: Supramolecular systems in Nature

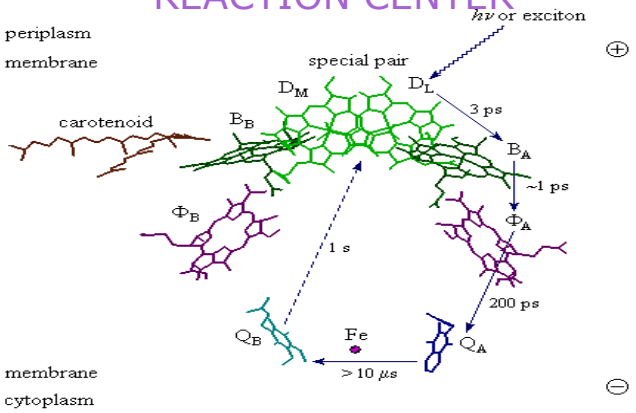
THE PHOTOSYNTHETIC APPARATUS



ANTENNA UNITS

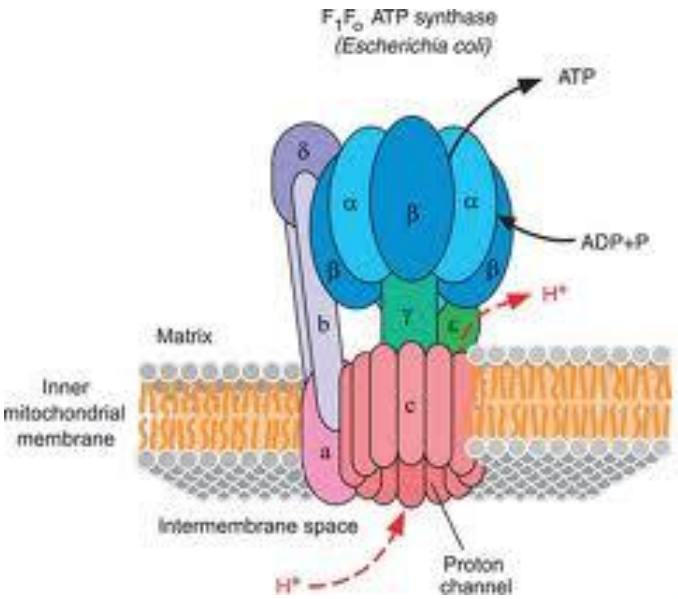


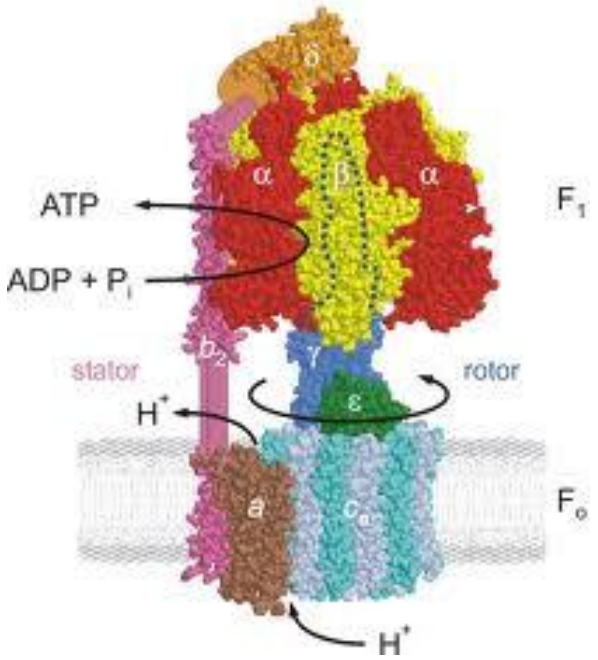
REACTION CENTER



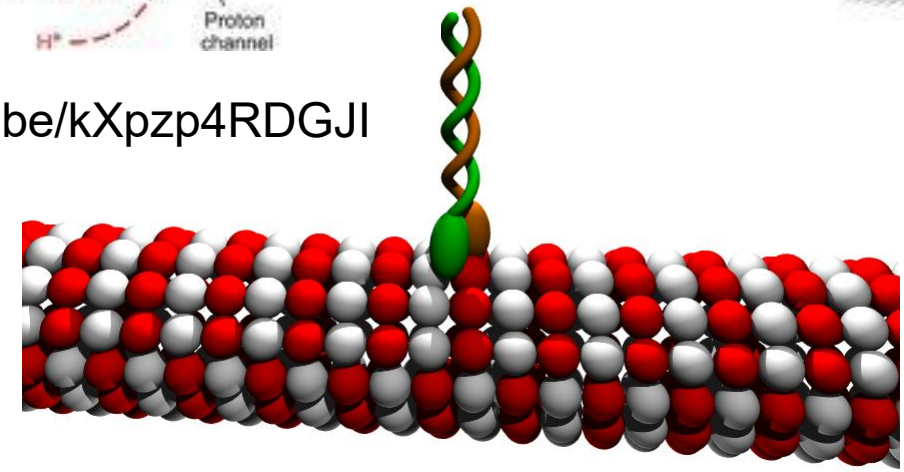
The original inspiration: Supramolecular systems in Nature

ATP Synthase and KINESIN





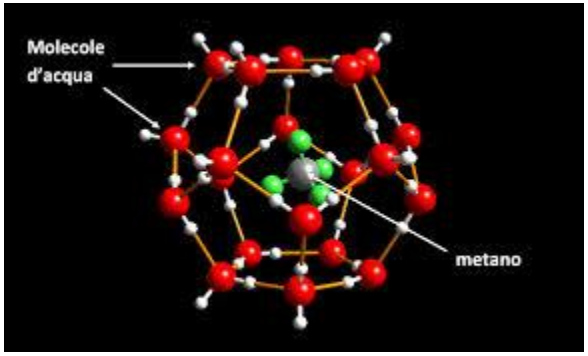
https://youtu.be/kXpzp4RDGJI



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

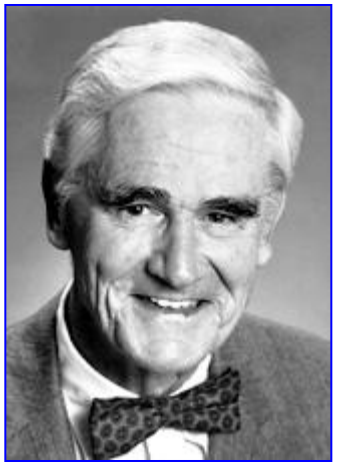
- the chemistry of the non-covalent bond: weak interactions

Bottom-up approach

Nano objects

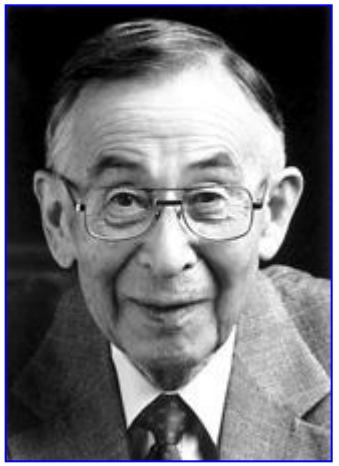
Smart and functional materials

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/

Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1987

J-P. Sauvage

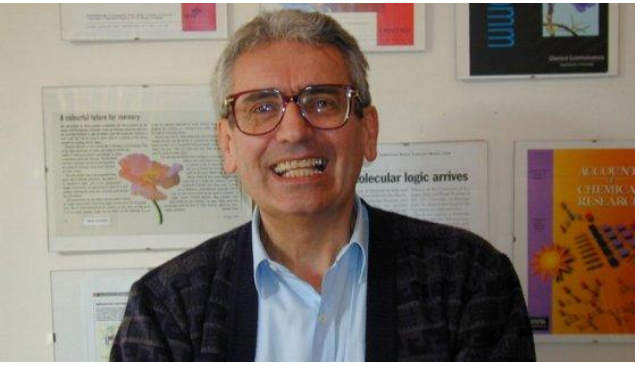
Sir J. F. Stoddart

B. L. Feringa

"for the design and synthesis of molecular machines"

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

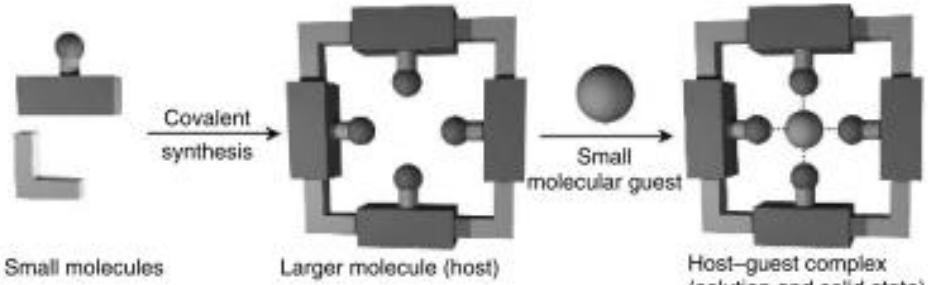
The missed Nobel Prize

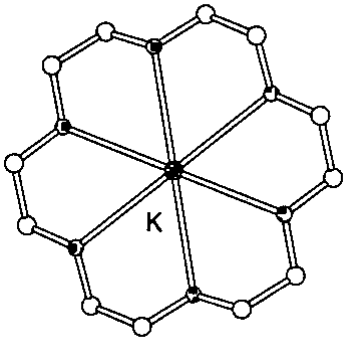


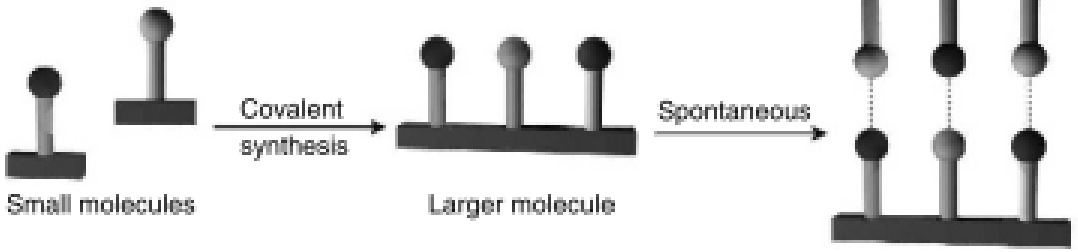
Prof. Vincenzo Balzani,
Emeritus Professor
University of Bologna

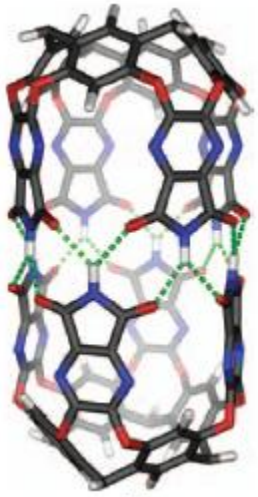
Scientific activity [edit]

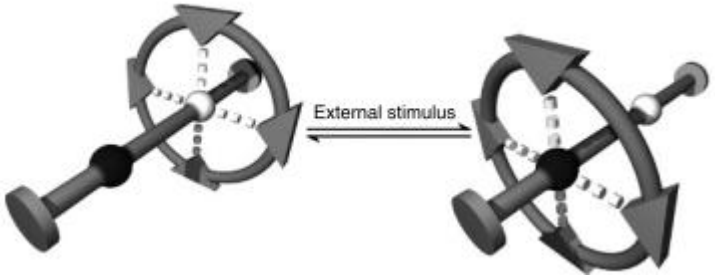
He has carried out an intense scientific activity in the fields of photochemistry, photophysics, electron transfer reactions, supramolecular chemistry, nanotechnology, machines and devices at the molecular level, photochemical conversion of solar energy. With its 650 publications cited more than 64,000 times in the scientific literature (H index 119),[1] he is one of the best known chemists in the world. He is author or co-author of texts for researchers in English, some translated into Chinese and Japanese, which are currently adopted in universities in many countries. A few of the most significant texts are: Photochemistry of Coordination Compounds (1970), Supramolecular Photochemistry (1991), Molecular Devices and Machines - Concepts and Perspectives for the Nanoworld (2008), Energy for a Sustainable World (2011), Photochemistry and Photophysics: Concepts, Research, Applications (2014).



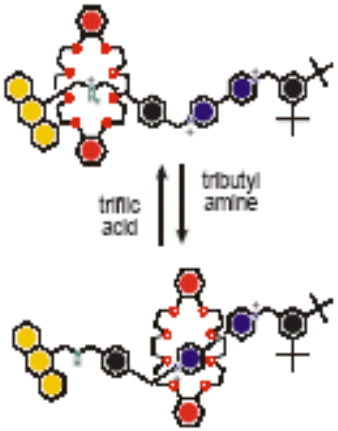




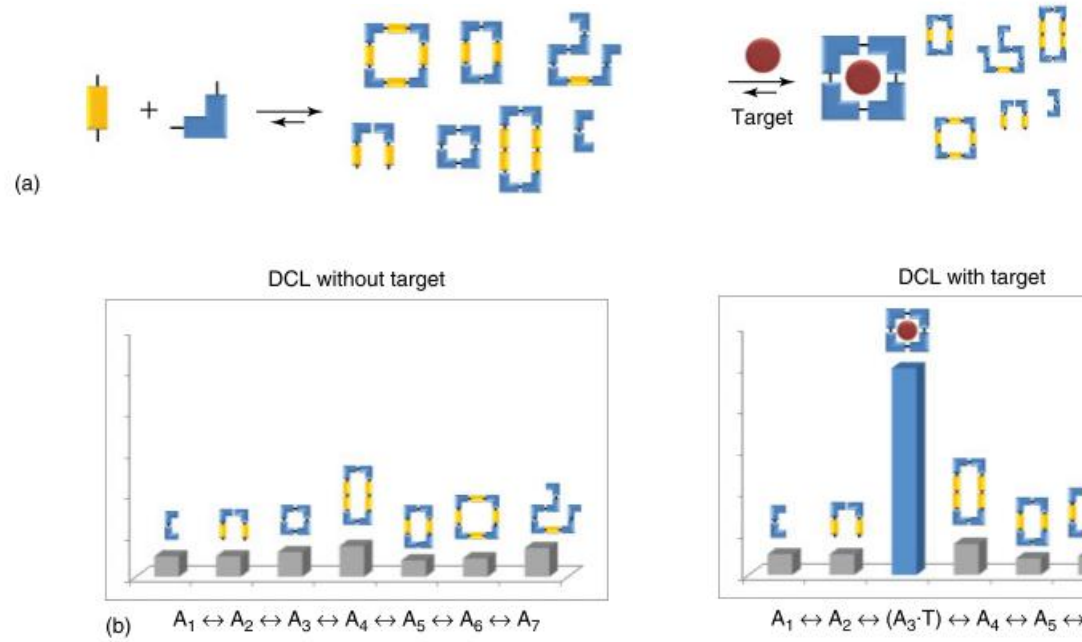




Rotaxanes and catenanes as molecular devices



DYNAMIC COMBINATORIAL CHEMISTRY



Preparation of a large number of different compounds (ideally) at the same time starting from a series of Building blocks – Dynamic Combinatorial Library

nature nanotechnology

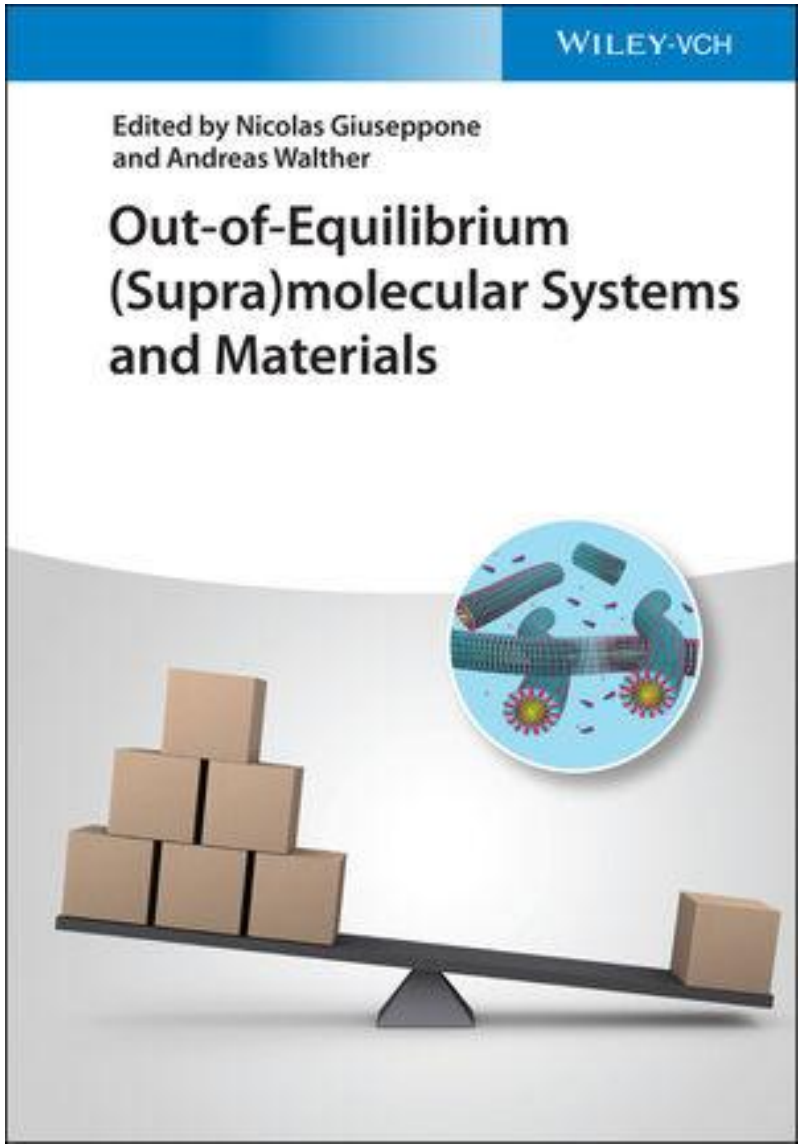
REVIEW ARTICLE

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 5 FEBRUARY 2015 | DOI: 10.1038/NNANO.2014.337

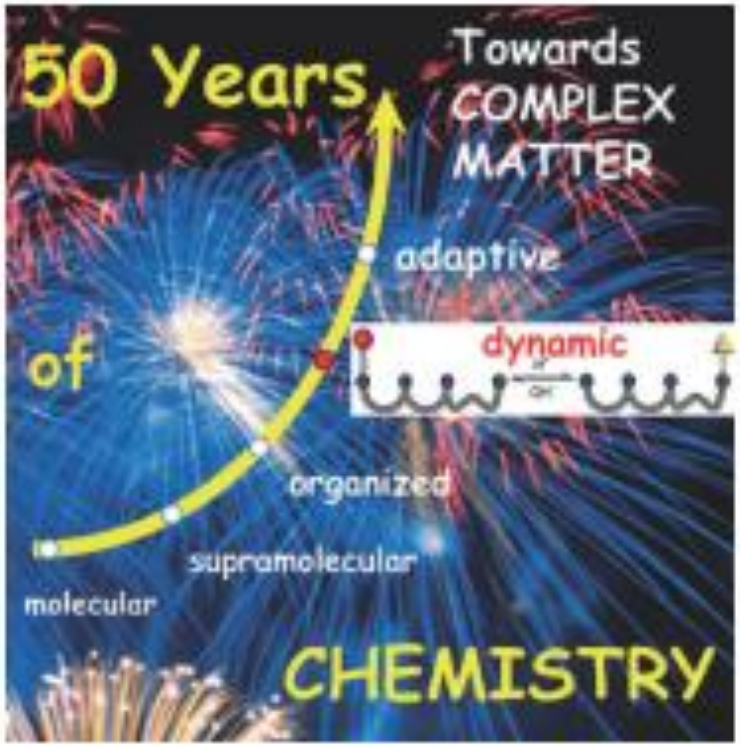
Supramolecular systems chemistry

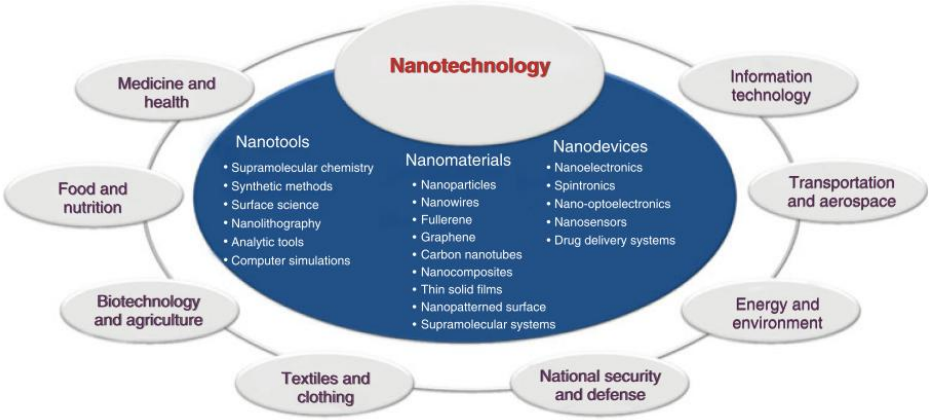
Elio Mattia and Sijbren Otto*

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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2. J. W. Steed, J. L. Atwood *Supramolecular Chemistry*, J. Wiley & Sons, UK, **2000**.

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4. H.-J. Schneider, A. Yatsimirsky *Principles and Methods in Supramolecular Chemistry*, J. Wiley & Sons, UK, **2000**.

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9. P. W. N. M. Van Leeuwen *Supramolecular Catalysis*, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim (Germany), **2008**.

10. J.-P. Sauvage (Ed.) *Perspectives in Supramolecular Chemistry*, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim (Germany), **2007**.

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Core Concepts in Supramolecular Chemistry and Nanochemistry

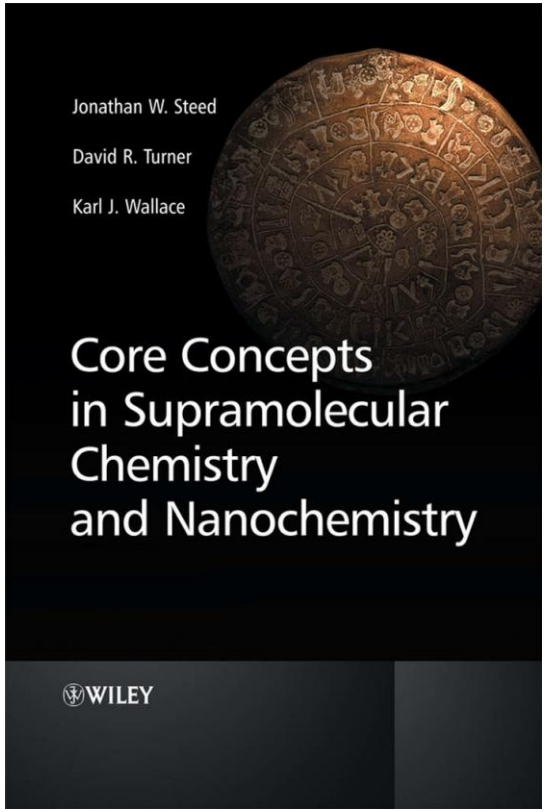
Jonathan W. Steed,
Durham University, UK

David R. Turner,
Monash University, Australia

Karl J. Wallace,
University of Southern Mississippi, USA

BICENTENNIAL 1807 WILEY 2007 BICENTENNIAL

John Wiley & Sons, Ltd



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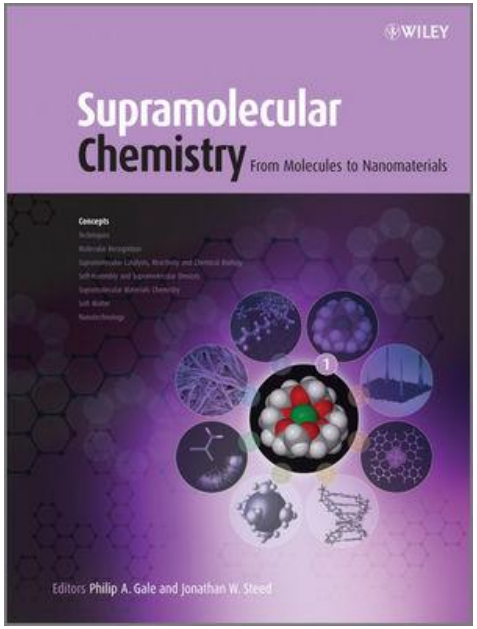

Supramolecular Chemistry: From Molecules to Nanomaterials, 8 Volume Set
Jonathan W. Steed (Editor-in-Chief), Philip A. Gale (Editor-in-Chief), Wiley.

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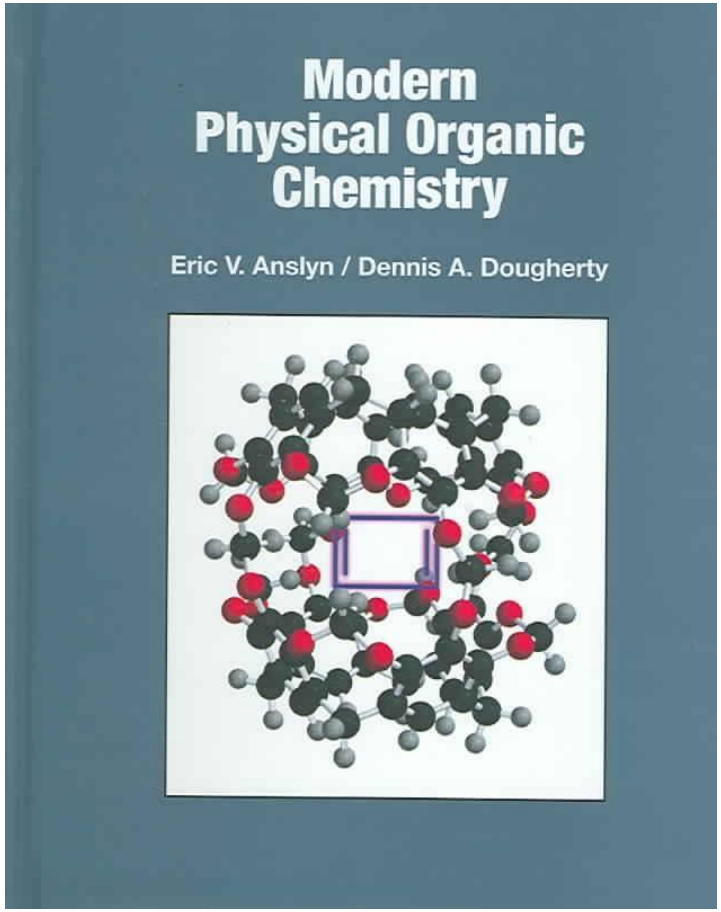


Eric V. Anslyn, Dennis A. Dougherty
University Science Books, 2006

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
*Cantenanes**
*Rotaxanes**
Knots
Paper Discussion

Molecular Machines
(chemical/electrochemical/photochemical stimuli)
Paper Discussion

**Prof. Benoit Colasson* *(2-3h?)*
Université Paris Cité

Prof. Benoit COLASSON

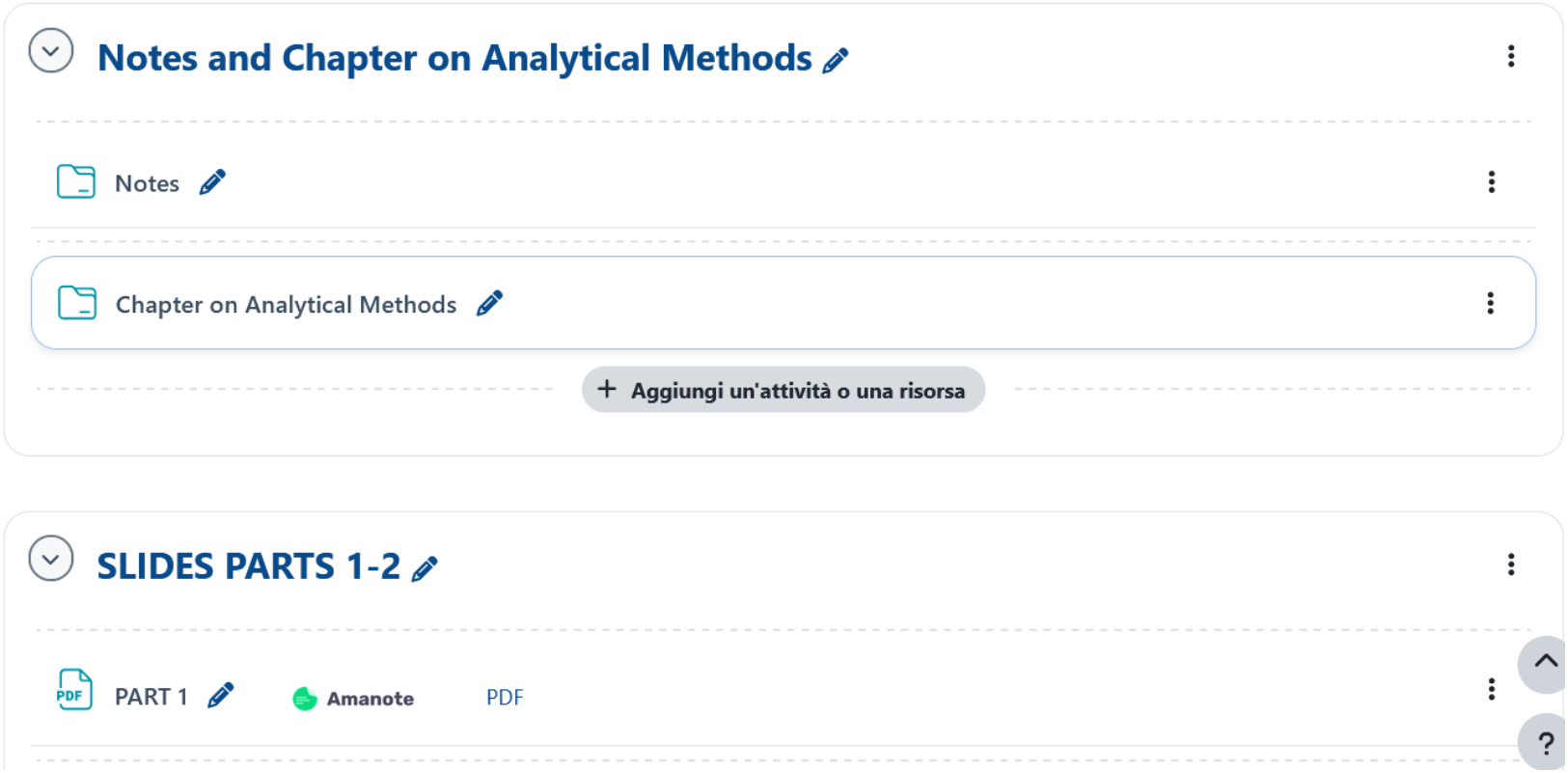
Professor, department of basic and biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Sciences

benoit.colasson@u-paris.fr

Benoit COLASSON, a member of the doctoral school's agitation committee, is a professor at *Université Paris Cité* and a researcher at the *Laboratoire de Chimie et Biochimie Pharmacologiques et Toxicologiques* (LCBPT – UMR 8601). After completing a doctorate in topological chemistry (Sauvage laboratory, *University of Strasbourg,* France), he conducted post-doctoral research (Fabbrizzi laboratory, *University of Pavia,* Italy, and Sharpless laboratory, *Scripps Research Institute,* San Diego, USA).

In 2006, he assumed the role of assistant professor in the LCBPT laboratory, concentrating on biomimetic coordination complexes based on calixarenes. **Presently, his research delves into using supramolecular chemistry to manipulate the properties of metal coordination complexes.** Alongside his research, he actively contributes to teaching chemistry at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Material on *Moodle*



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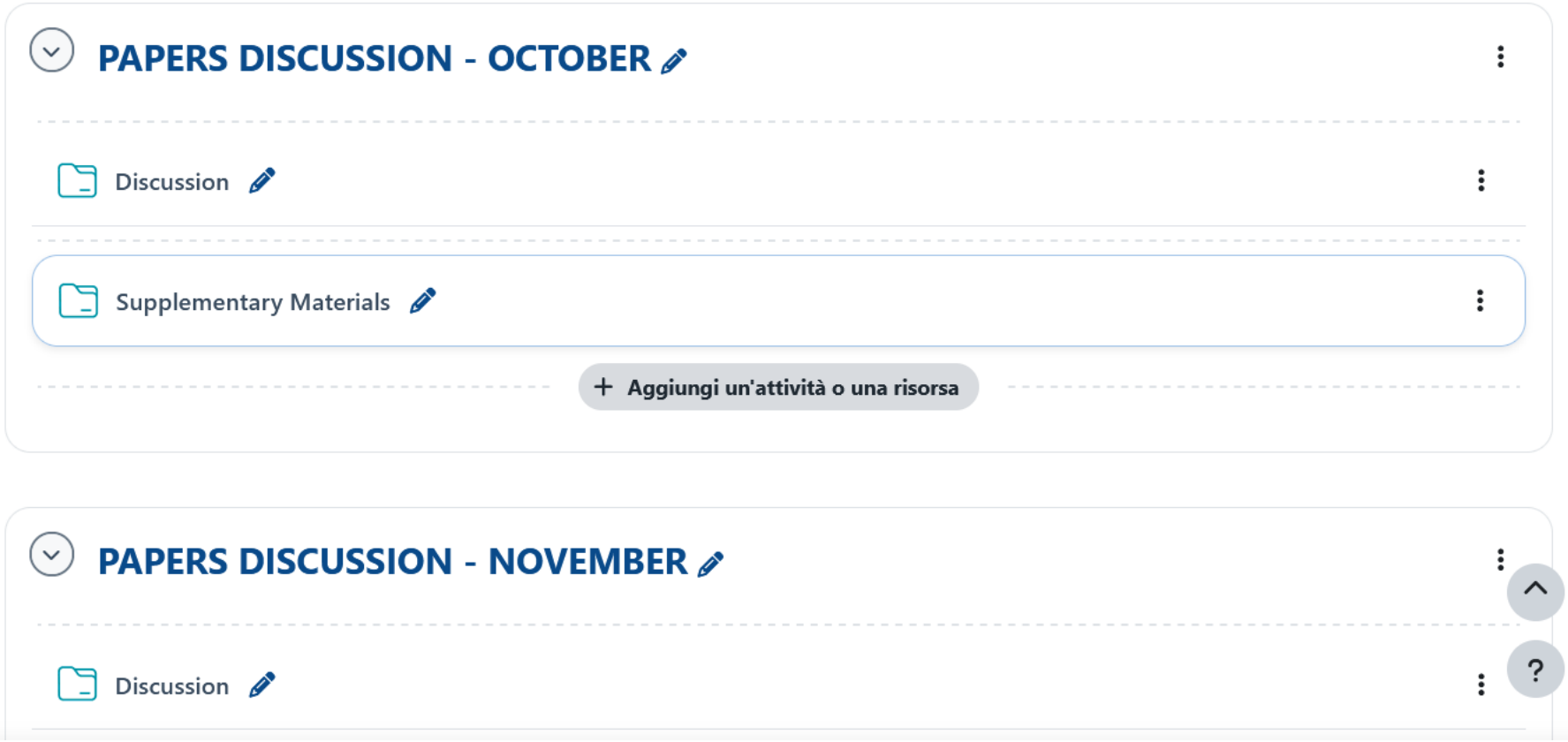
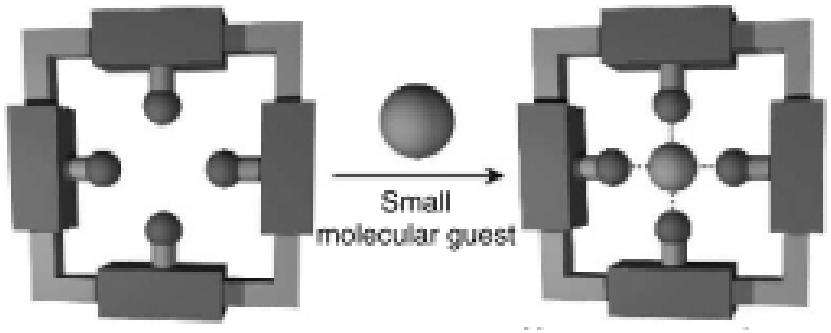


RECORDING ON MSTeams

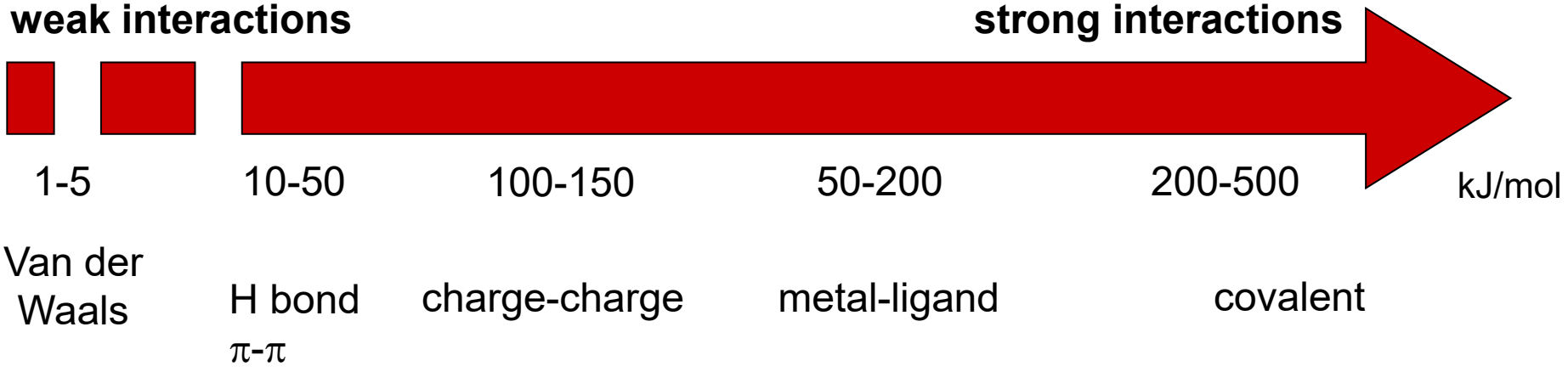
Oral Exam (Discussion of a Literature Paper)


Small
molecular guest

Weak (Reversible) Intermolecular Interactions

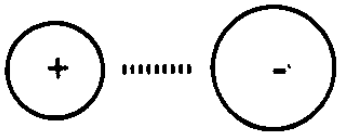
- Electrostatic
- π-π
- Cation-π/ Anion-π/CH-π
- H Bonding
- Halogen Bonding
- Metal-Ligand Coordination
- Reversible Covalent Bonding
- Chelate Effect
- Macrocyclic Effect
- Hydrophobic Effect

Weak (Reversible) Intermolecular Interactions

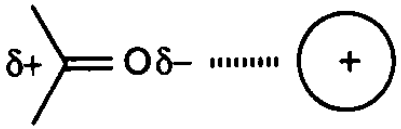


Reminder: to convert kilojoules to calories, divide by 4.18

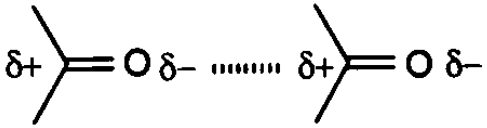
Electrostatic Interactions



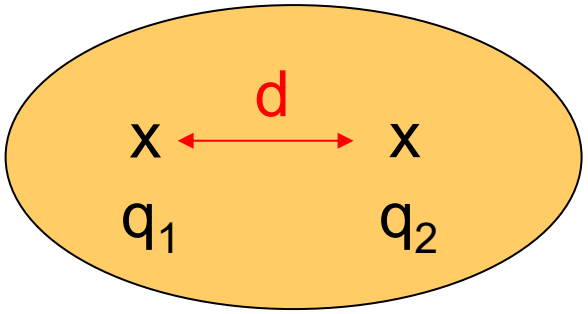
Charge-Charge Interactions 100-350 kJ/mol



Dipole-Charge Interactions 50-200 kJ/mol



Dipole-Dipole Interactions 5-50 kJ/mol



$$W = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0}\frac{q_1 q_2}{\varepsilon d} \text{ (J)}$$

vacuum permittivity

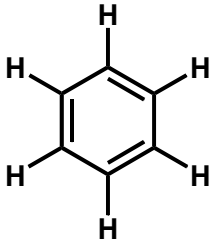
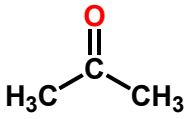
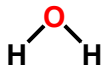
dielectric constant (nature of solvant)

ε(vacuum) = 1

apolar medium ⇔ ε small (~ 2)

polar medium ⇔ ε big (H_2O ~ 80)

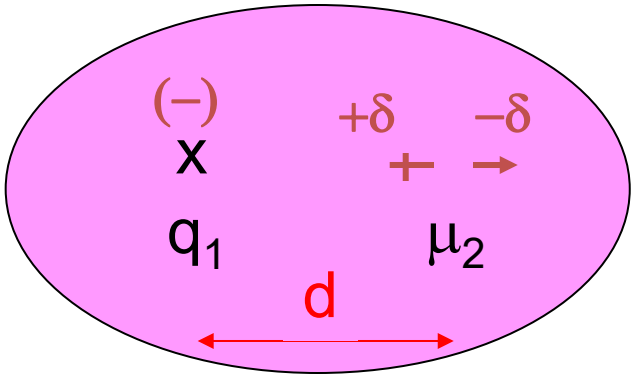
dielectric constant of the solvant

		ε
Benzene		2,3
Acetone		20,7
Ethanol	CH_3CH_2OH	24,3
water		78,5

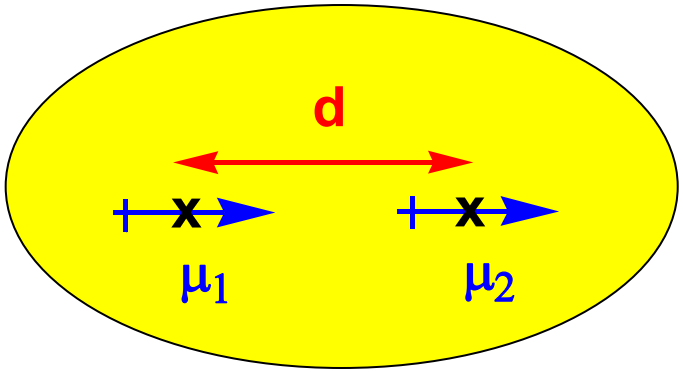
apolar ↓ polar

ε = 78.5 d = 0.5 nm => W = 3.75 kJ.mol^{-1}

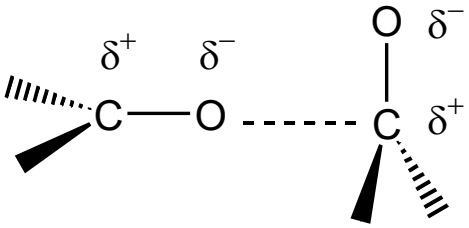
ε = 2 d = 0.5 nm => W = 140 kJ.mol^{-1}

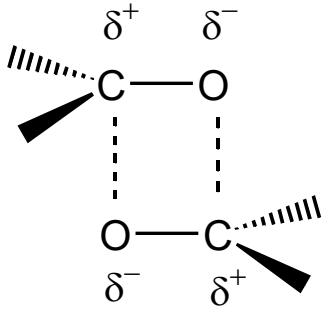


$$W = - C^{te} \times \frac{|q|\mu_2}{\varepsilon d^2}$$

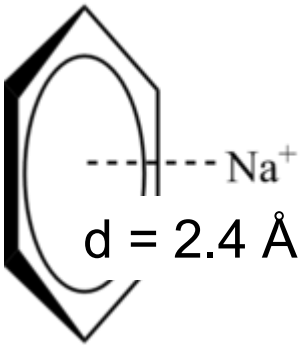


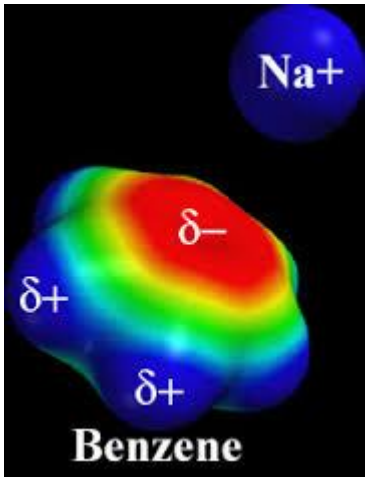
$$W = - C^{te} \frac{\mu_1 \mu_2}{\varepsilon d^3}$$

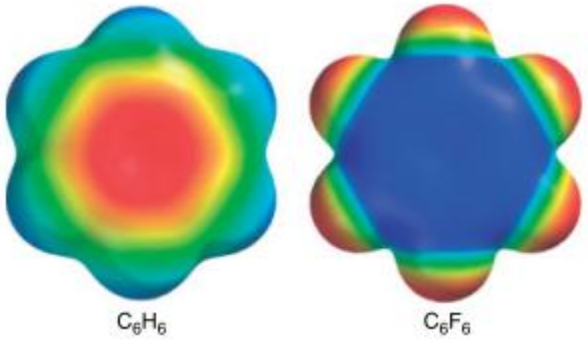




Cation-π Interactions







CHEMICAL REVIEWS

Review

pubs.acs.org/CR

dx.doi.org/10.1021/cr300222d | *Chem. Rev.* 2013, 113, 2100–2138

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

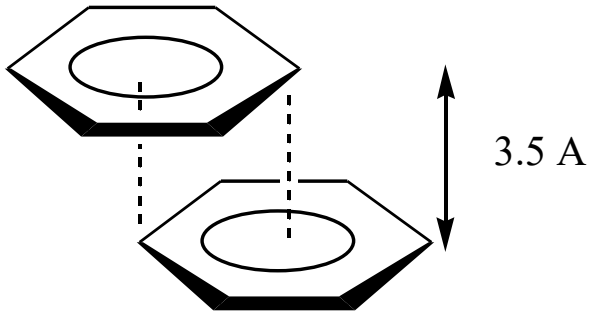
DENNIS A. DOUGHERTY

Chem. Rev. **1997,** *97,* 1303–1324

The Cation–π Interaction

Jennifer C. Ma and Dennis A. Dougherty*

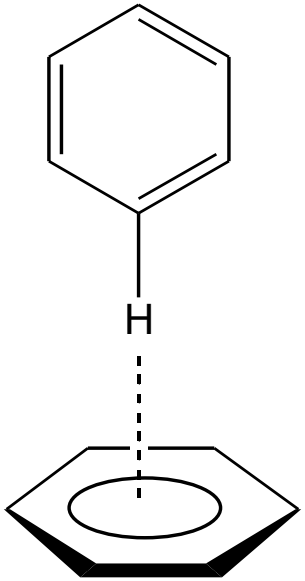
π-π Interactions up to 50 kJ/mol

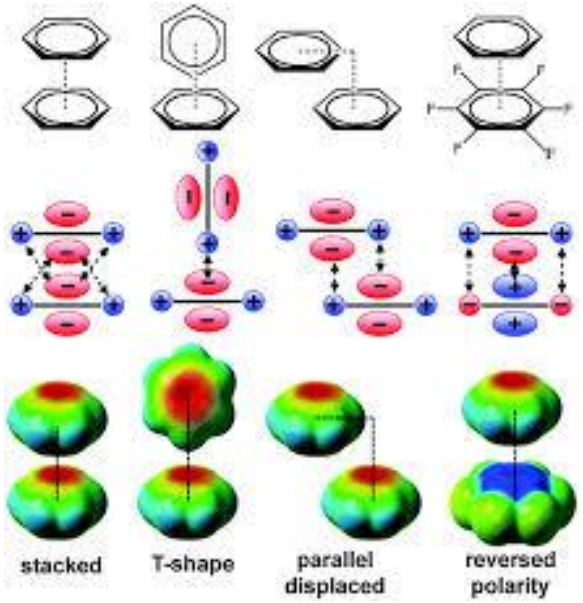


face to face

3.5 A

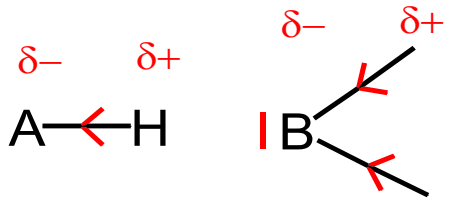
edge to face



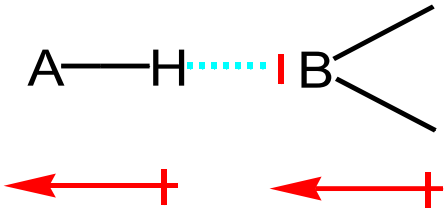


- C.A. Hunter and J.K.M. Sanders, ***The Nature of π - π interactions***, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.,* **1990**, *112*, 5525;
- E.-I. Kim, S. Paliwal and C.S. Wilcox, ***Measurements of molecular electrostatic field effects in edge-to-face aromatic interactions and CH- π interactions with implications for protein folding and molecular recognition***, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1998**, *120*, 11192.

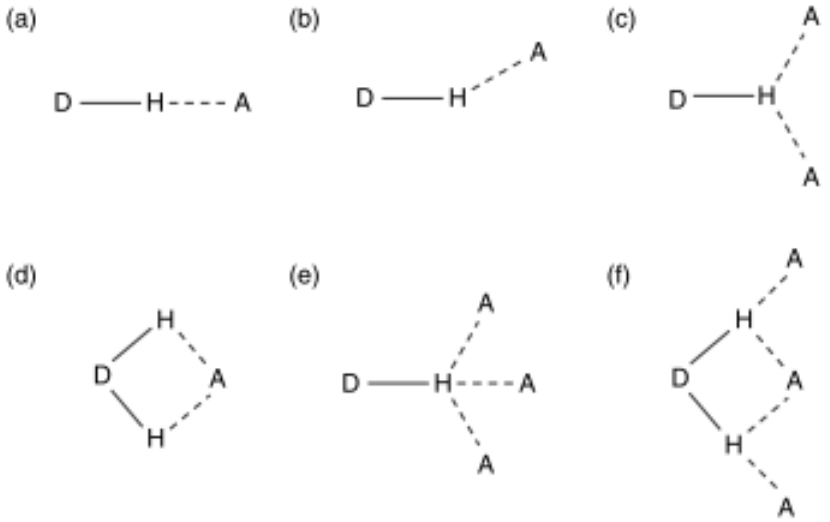
H Bond 4-120 kJ/mol

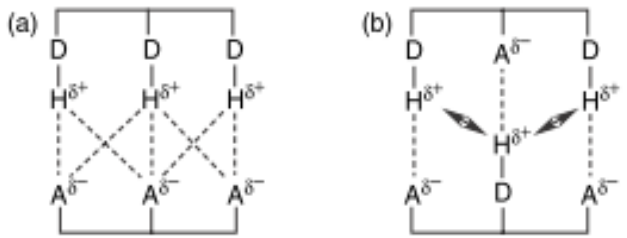


A, B electronegative or electrondeficient atoms



permanent dipoles



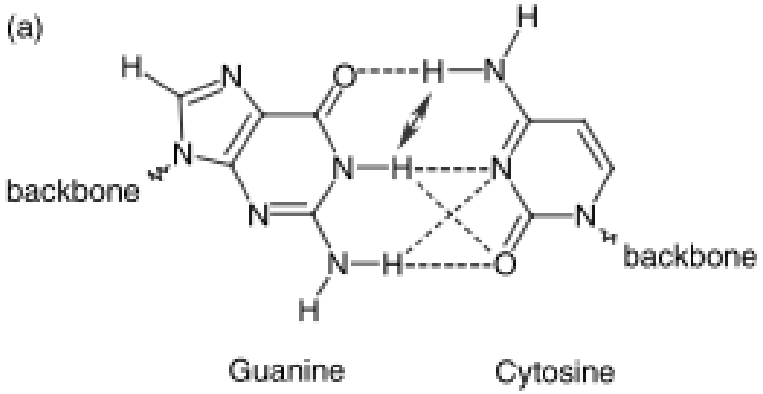


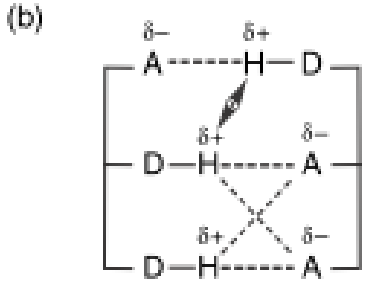
D Donor

A Acceptor

Attractive interaction

Repulsive interaction



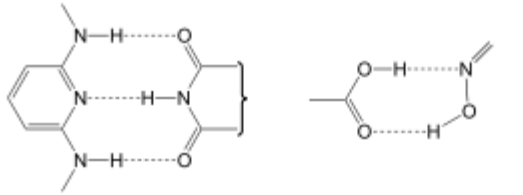


	Strong	Moderate	Weak
interaction type	strongly covalent	mostly electrostatic	electrostat./ dispers.
bond lengths [Å]			
H ··· A	1.2 – 1.5	1.5 – 2.2	> 2.2
lengthening of X–H [Å]	0.08 – 0.25	0.02 – 0.08	< 0.02
X–H versus H ··· A	X–H ≈ H ··· A	X–H < H ··· A	X–H ≪ H ··· A
X ··· A [Å]	2.2 – 2.5	2.5 – 3.2	> 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 $\Delta\tilde{\nu}_{XH}$ [cm^{-1}]	25 %	10 – 25 %	< 10 %
^{1}H downfield shift	14 – 22	< 14	

The Hydrogen Bond in the Solid State

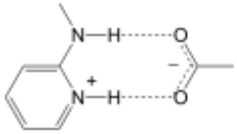
Thomas Steiner*

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



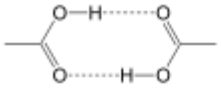
a) P_m = 97 %

b) P_m = 90 %

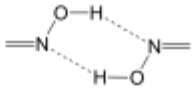


c) P_m = 82 %

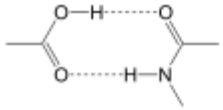
d) P_m = 51 %



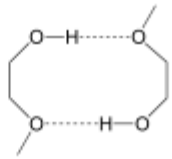
e) P_m = 33 %



f) P_m = 27 %



g) P_m = 10 %



h) P_m = 5 %

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).

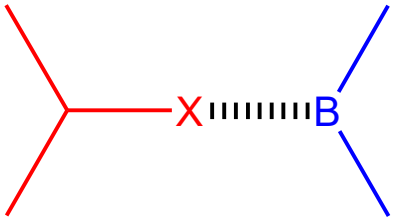
Halogen Bond

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

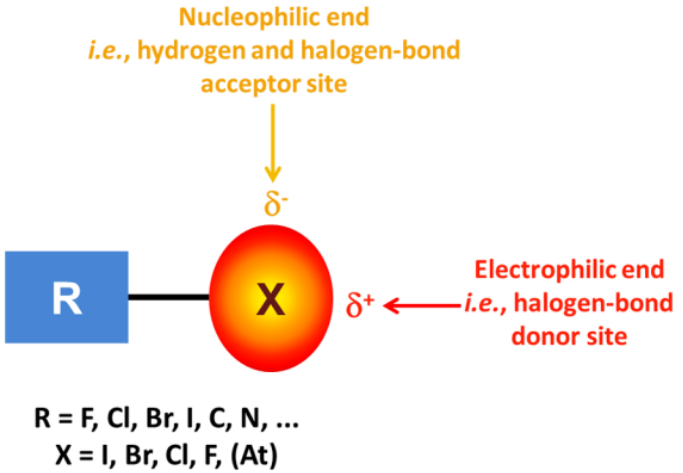
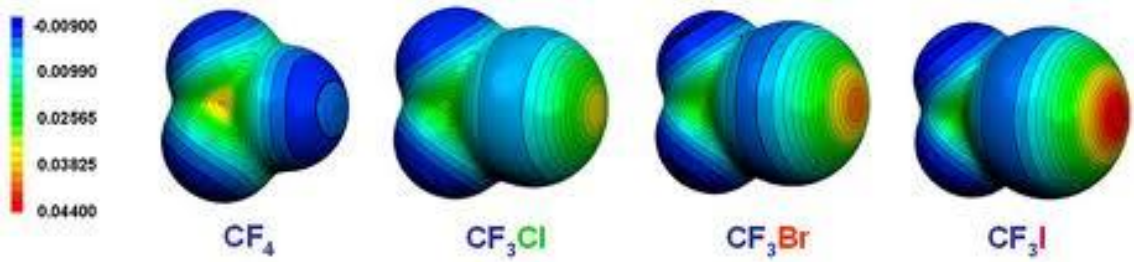


Figure 21. Schematic representation of the anisotropic distribution of the electron density around covalently bound halogen atoms and the pattern of the resulting interactions.



molecule	atom	bond producing a σ-hole
H_3C-F	F	C−F
H_3C-Cl	Cl	C−Cl
H_3C-Br	Br	C−Br
H_3C-I	I	C−I
F_3C-F	F	C−F
F_3C-Cl	Cl	C−Cl
F_3C-Br	Br	C−Br
F_3C-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_3Si-Br	Br	C−Br
F_3Si-Br	Br	Si−Br
H_3Ge-Br	Br	Ge−Br
H_2N-Br	Br	N−Br
F_2N-Br	Br	N−Br
H_2P-Br	Br	P−Br
F_2P-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

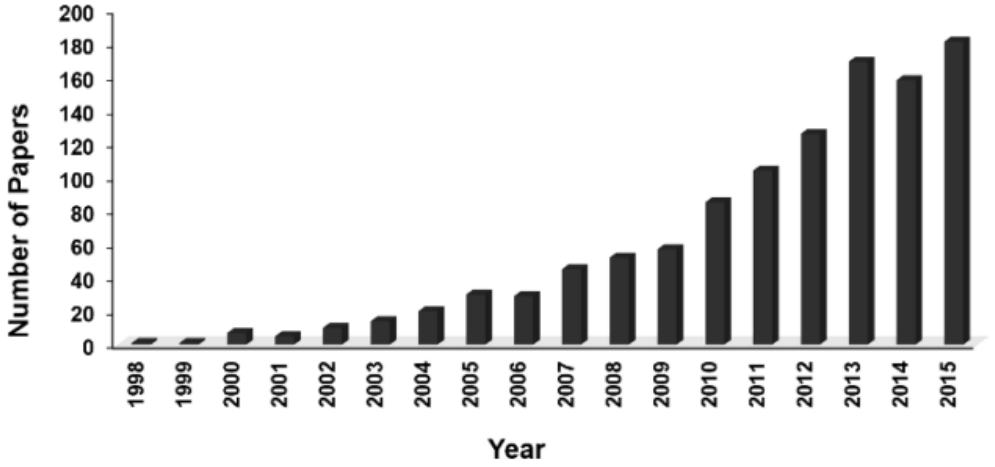
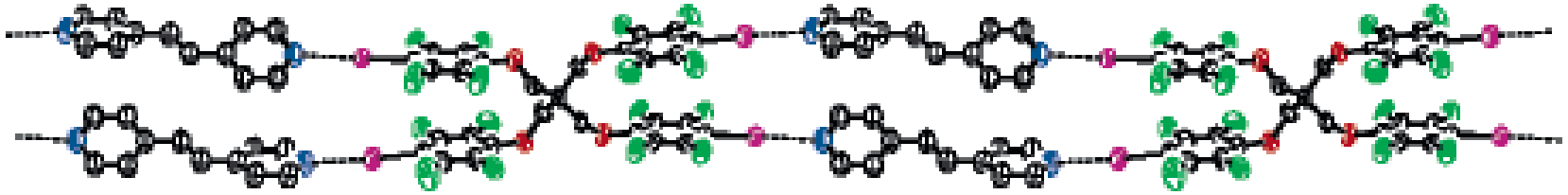
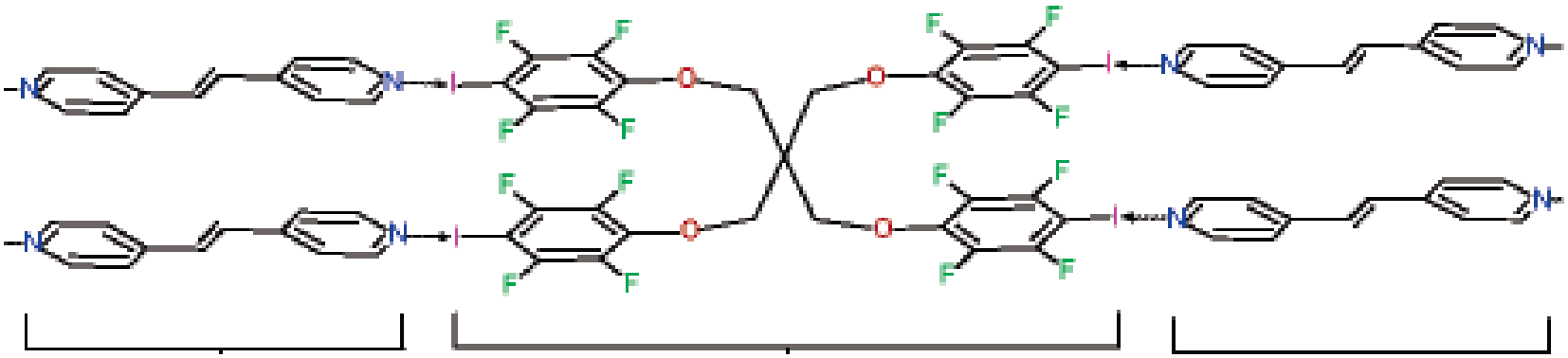
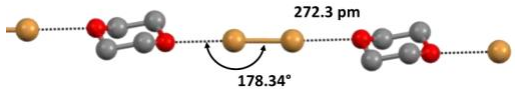


Figure 5. Number of papers per year having "halogen bonding" in the title and/or abstract (source SciFinder, search performed in November 2015).



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.

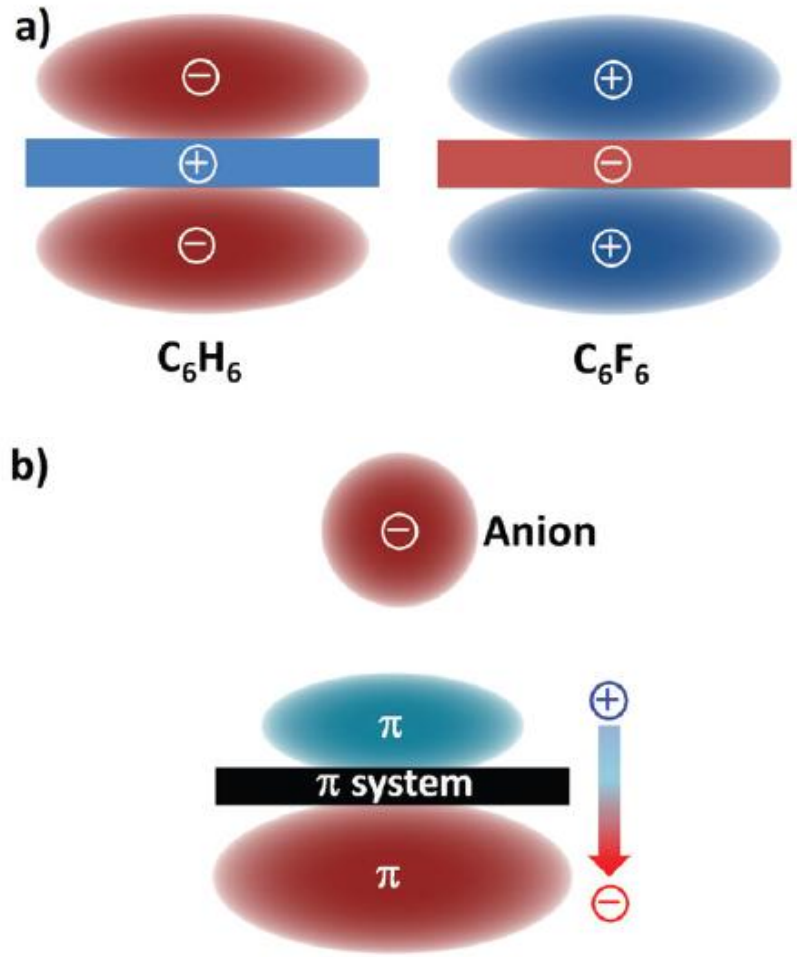


Fig. 1 (a) Schematic representation of the quadrupole moments of benzene (C_6H_6; Q_{zz} = −8.45 B) and hexafluorobenzene (C_6F_6; Q_{zz} = +9.50 B)[21] and (b) the ion-induced dipole[22] (the molecular polarizabilities parallel to the main symmetry axis are $\alpha_{\|}$ = 41.5 and 37.7 a.u (a.u. stands for atomic units), for benzene and hexafluorobenzene respectively).

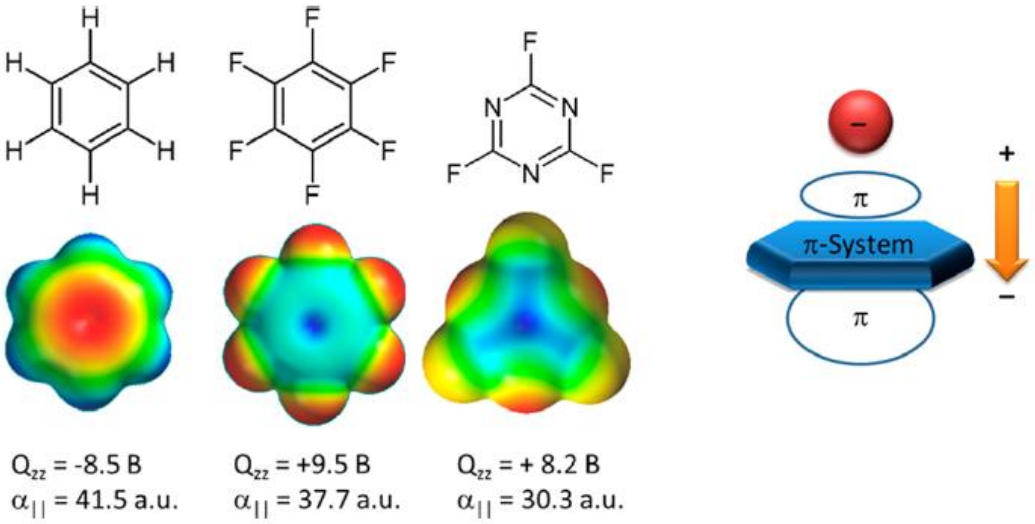


Figure 5. Structures and electron-density surfaces of selected arenes showing low electron density (blue region) in the aromatic core of C_6F_6 and $C_3N_3F_3$ (left). In addition the concept of "anion-induced dipole moment" is illustrated (right).[88]

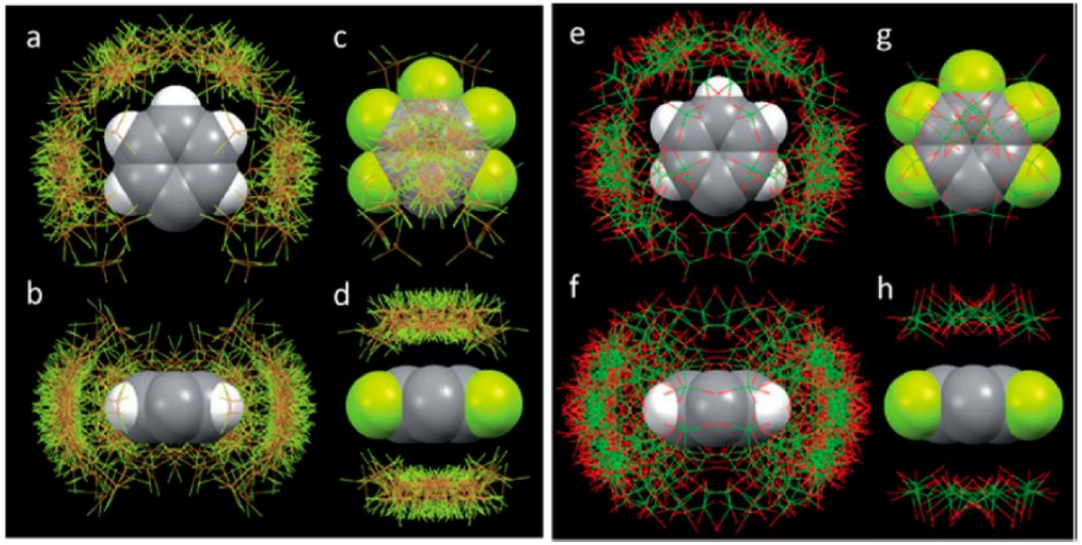


Figure 20. IsoStar plots showing anion contacts between C_6H_5 and BF_4^- (a and b) and ClO_4^- (e and f) as well as anion−π interactions between C_6F_5 and BF_4^- (c and d) and ClO_4^- (g and h). Reproduced and adapted with permission from ref 22. Copyright 2011 John Wiley and Sons.

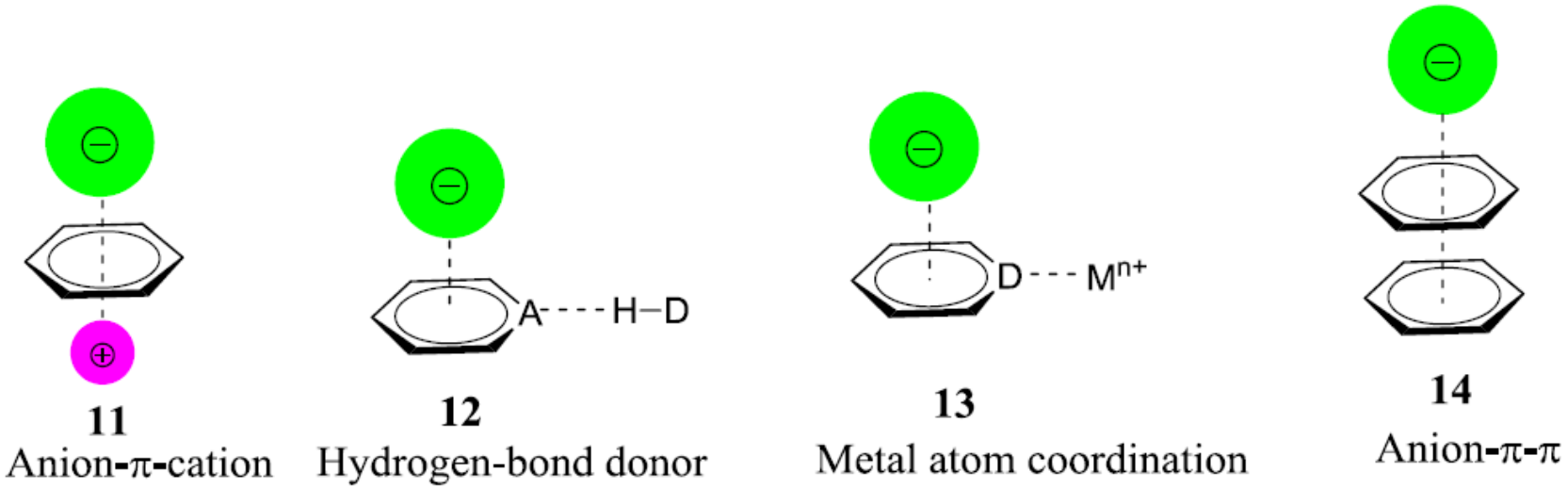


Fig. 4. Illustration of diverse factors affecting the strength of anion-π interactions.

Review Coordination Chemistry Reviews 415 (2020) 213327

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

Patrick Gamez[a,b]

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

Supramolecular Chemistry

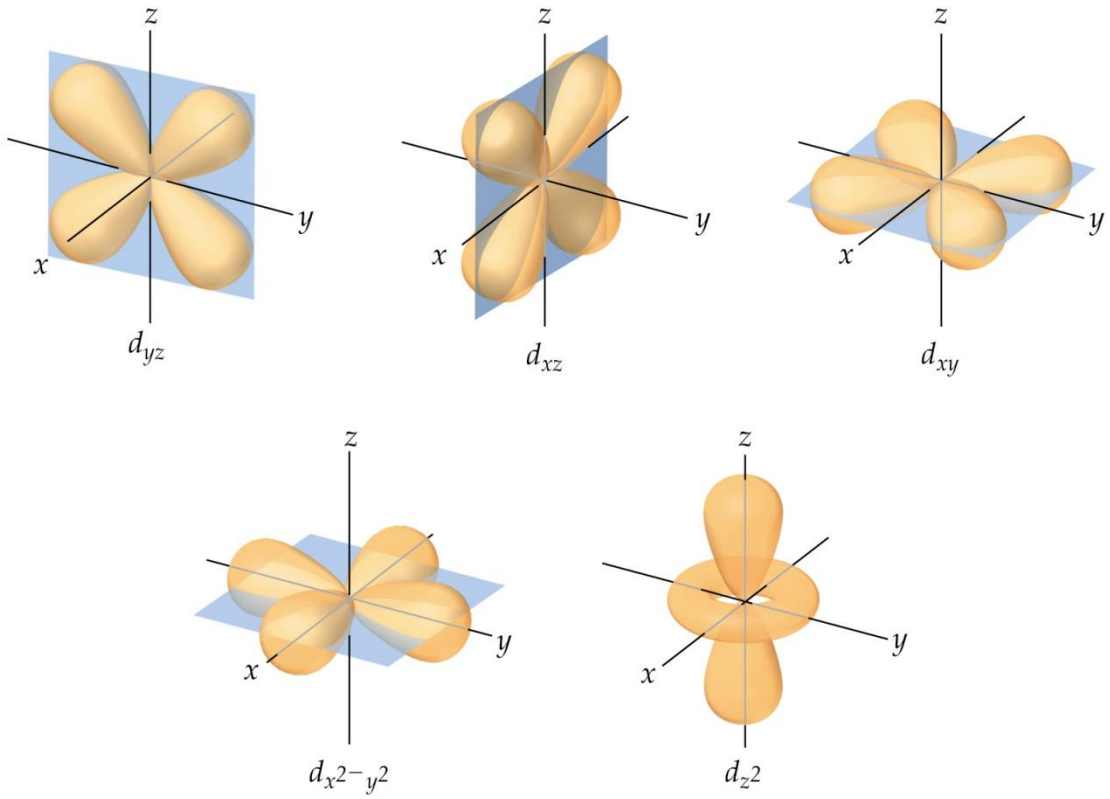
DOI: 10.1002/anie.201100208

Putting Anion–π Interactions Into Perspective

Antonio Frontera, Patrick Gamez,* Mark Mascal,* Tiddo J. Mooibroek,* and Jan Reedijk**

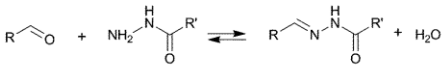
Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **2011**, 50, 9564 – 9583

Metal-Ligand Interaction

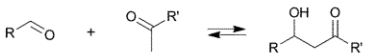


Covalent Reversible reactions

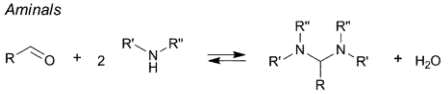
Acylhydrazones



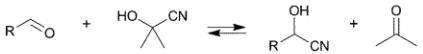
Aldols



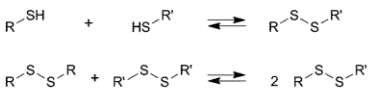
Aminals



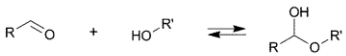
Cyanohydrins



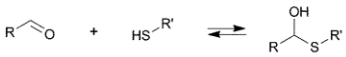
Disulfides



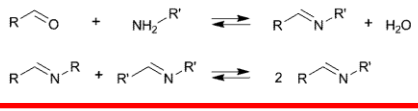
Hemiacetals



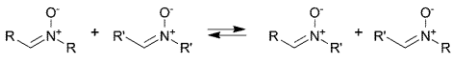
Hemithioacetals



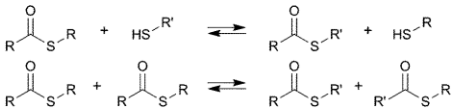
Imines (Schiff bases)



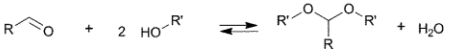
Nitrones



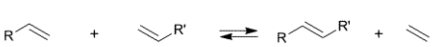
Thioesters



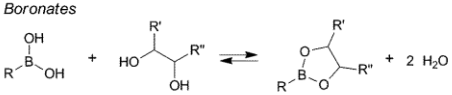
Acetals



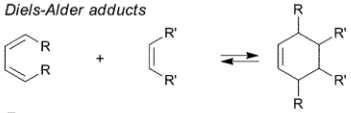
Alkenes



Boronates



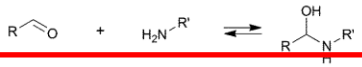
Diels-Alder adducts



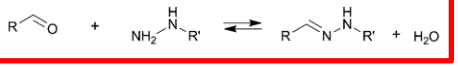
Esters

Formamidines:

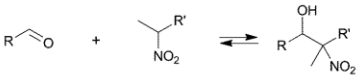
Hemiaminals



Hydrazones

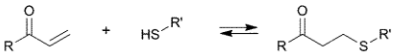


Nitroaldols



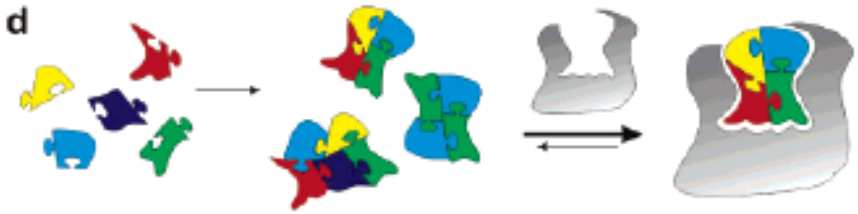
Oximes

Thioethers



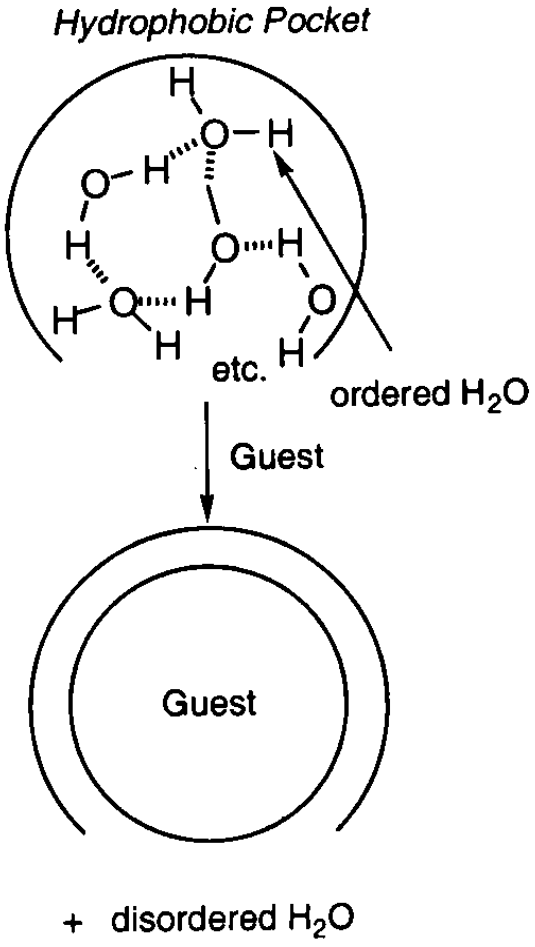
To facilitate the analysis of a library, and in particular to avoid shifting of its composition, DCLs can be "frozen" after having reached equilibrium in the presence of the target substrate. This can be achieved by changing the conditions of the reversible reactions, *e.g.* by further irreversible functionalisation of the labile reaction products, such as by reducing reversibly formed imines to their corresponding amines (reductive amination),[97,102,103] or by derivatising them in an Ugo reaction.[104] Other reversible systems have been slowed down by pH changes, *e.g.* by decreasing the pH of a mixture of disulfides, which easily interchange under neutral or slightly alkaline conditions but are stable at low pH,[98,105,106] or by increasing the pH of a mixture of acetals,[107] hydrazones[89,108–111] and others,[111,112] which readily hydrolyse under acidic conditions and which are stable at neutral pH. In catalysed reversible reactions, the removal or inactivation of the catalyst will transform the DCL into a static library, which can then be screened and analysed.[85,113]

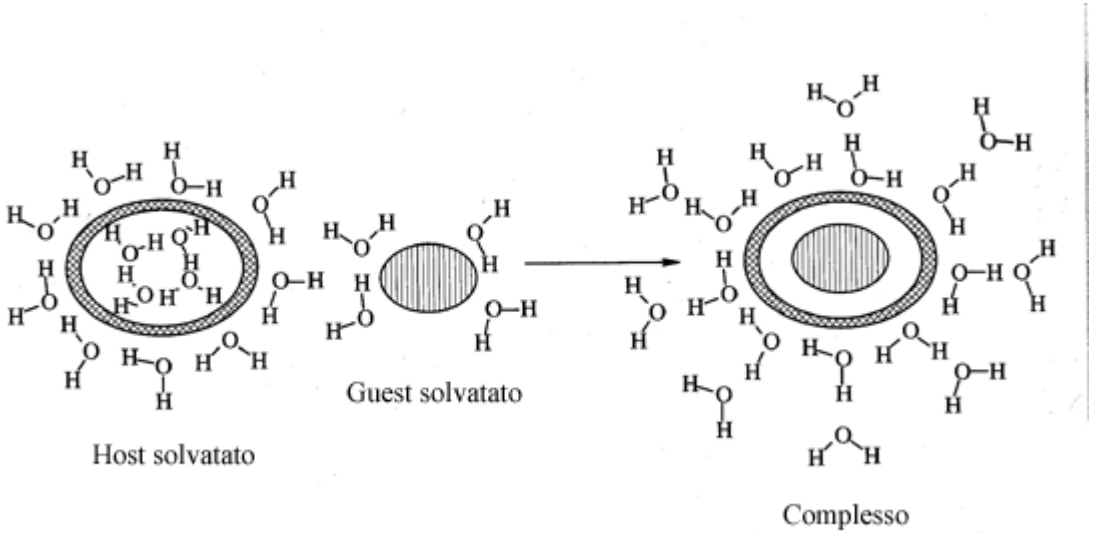
Selection of a host by a separately introduced guest



Selection of a guest by a separately introduced host

Hydrophobic Effect





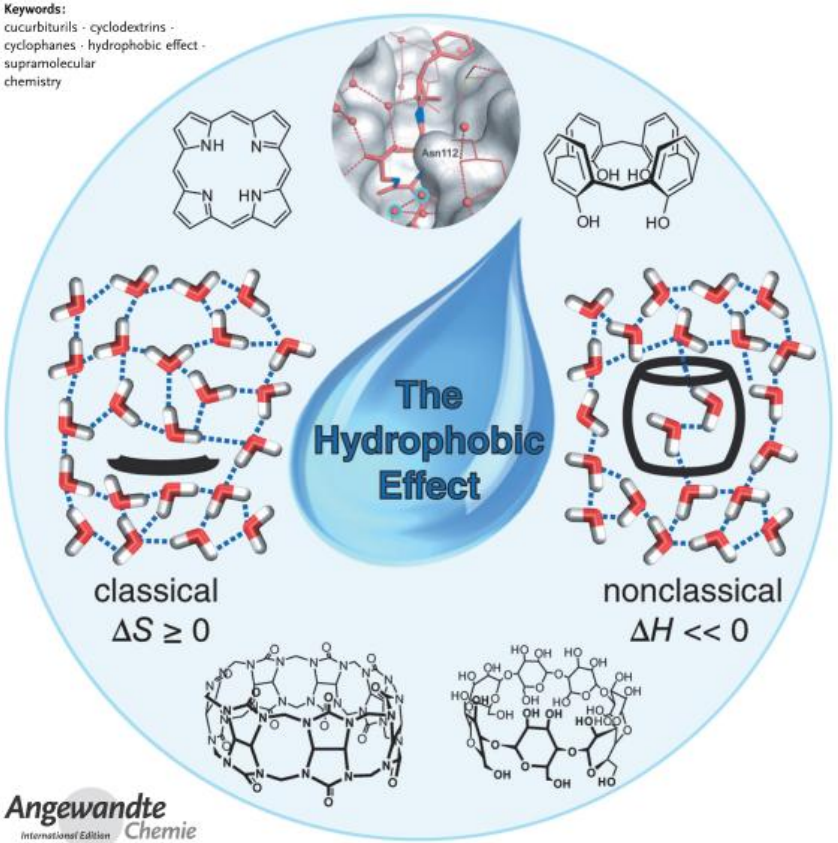
Hydrophobic Effect

DOI: 10.1002/anie.201310958

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



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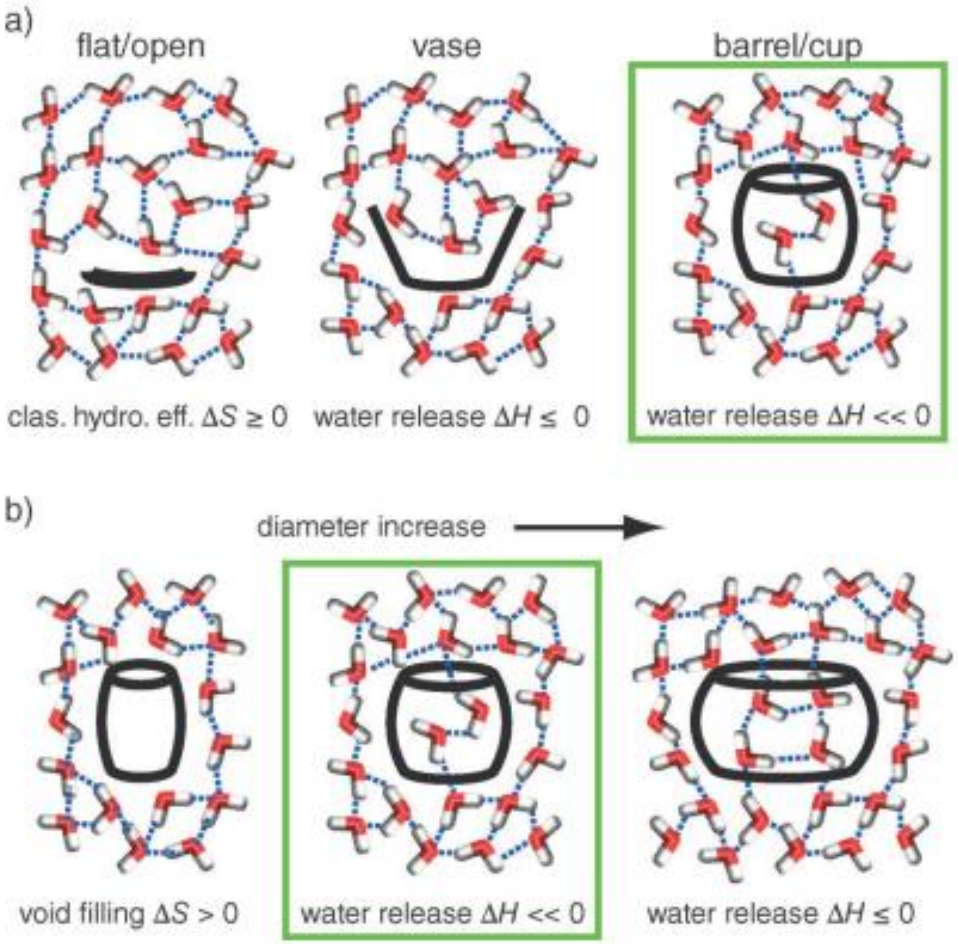
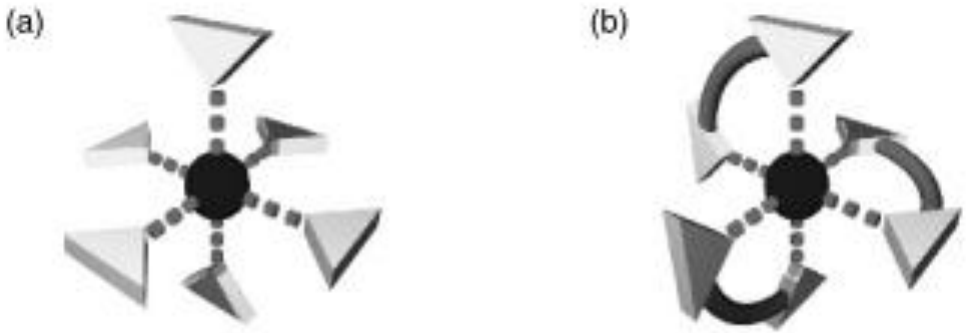

a)
flat/open
vase
barrel/cup
clas. hydro. eff. ΔS ≥ 0
water release ΔH ≤ 0
water release ΔH << 0
b)
diameter increase
void filling ΔS > 0
water release ΔH << 0
water release ΔH ≤ 0

Chelate Effect



$$[Ni(H_2O)_6]^{2+} + 6NH_3 = [Ni(NH_3)_6]^{2+} + 6H_2O$$

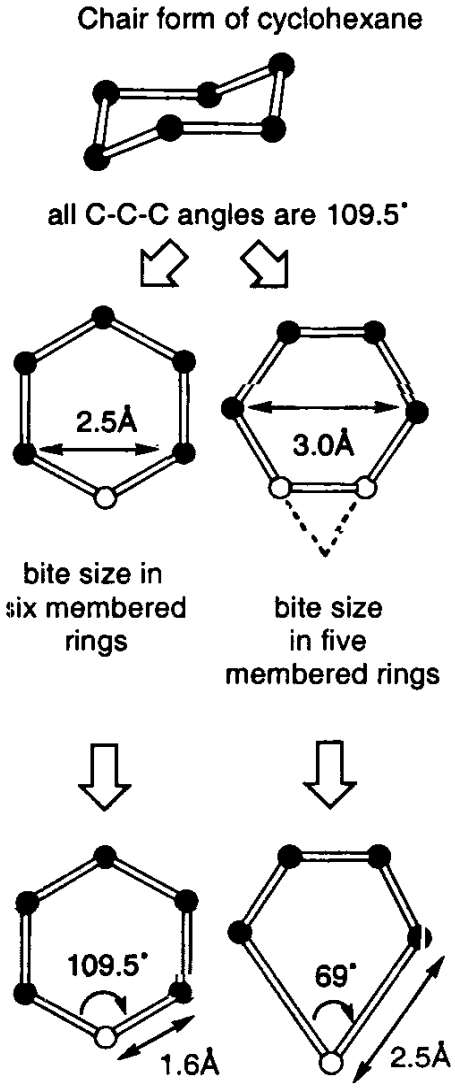
$$\beta \sim 10^9,\ \Delta G = -51.8\ \text{kJ mol}^{-1},$$

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

$$[Ni(H_2O)_6]^{2+} + 3en = [Ni(en)_3]^{2+} + 6H_2O$$

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

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



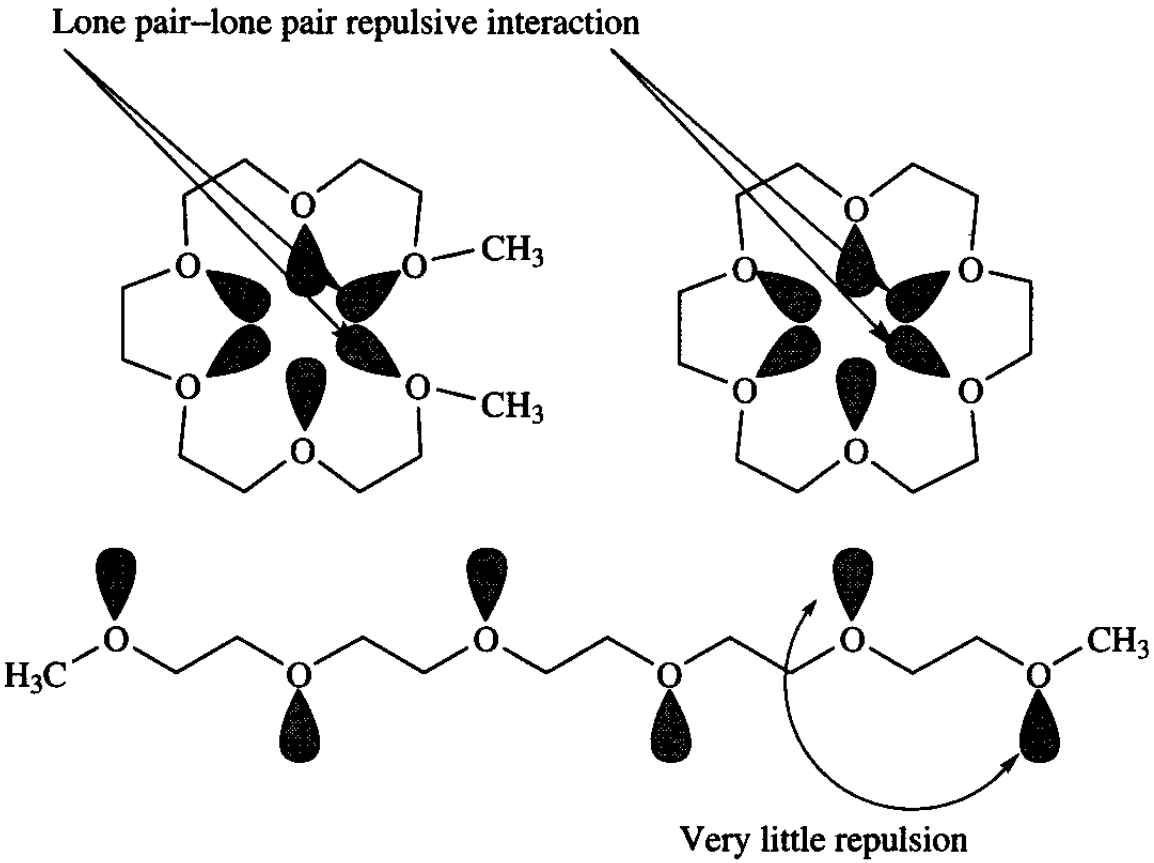
The general rule is that five-membered rings are more stable, the optimal ring size for maximum stability and chelate effect is influenced by the specific metal ion's size and coordination preferences, as well as the ligand's electronic and steric properties.

The bond angles in a (flexible) five-membered ring are closer to the ideal tetrahedral geometry, resulting in minimal strain compared to smaller or larger rings; the space offered is compatible with wider range of cations.

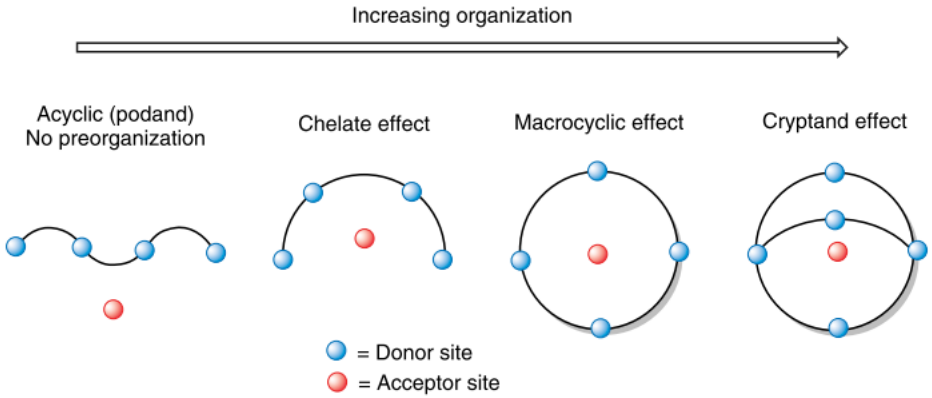
$$[Ni(H_2O)_6]^{2+} + 3en \rightleftharpoons [Ni(en)_3]^{2+} + 6H_2O(l) \qquad K_f = 6.76 \times 10^{17}$$
$$[Ni(H_2O)_6]^{2+} + 3tn \rightleftharpoons [Ni(tn)_3]^{2+} + 6H_2O(l) \qquad K_f = 1.86 \times 10^{12}$$

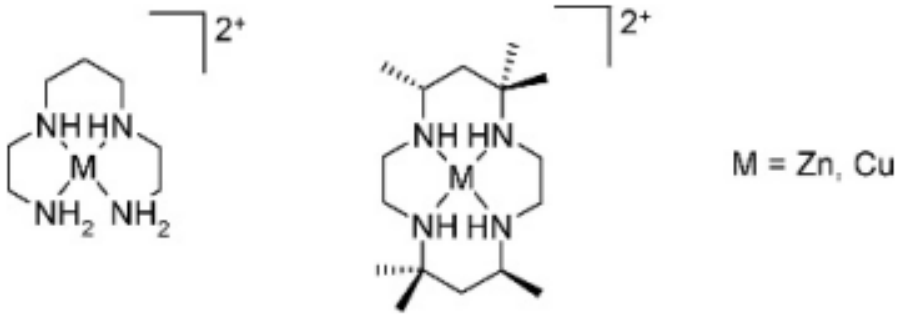
tn = $NH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2NH_2$
en = $NH_2CH_2CH_2NH_2$

Macrocyclic Effect



Macrocyclic Effect





Stability: Cyclic System 10^4 higher than the Acyclic one

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Assessing cooperativity in supramolecular systems†

Larissa K. S. von Krbek,‡[a] Christoph A. Schalley *[a] and Pall Thordarson *[b]

In general, positive allosteric cooperativity can be achieved either by making the first binding event less favorable or by making subsequent binding events more favorable (e.g. conformational changes, electronic polarization of the receptor, or long-range electrostatic interactions between the ligands.)

Chelate cooperativity in the assembly of a supramolecular system is driven by the difference in strength between the intermolecular and intramolecular interactions