

## Supplementary Information

**Table 1S** Interaction energy (kcal/mol) of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and benzene complex calculated at MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ, PM3/MMpol and PM3/MM levels of theory

| $R$ (Å) | MP2         | QM/MMpol    |                       | QM/MM                   |             |                    |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
|         | $E_{inter}$ | $E_{inter}$ | $E_{QM/MMpol}^{el,q}$ | $E_{QM/MMpol}^{el,\mu}$ | $E_{inter}$ | $E_{QM/MM}^{el,q}$ |
| 1.40    | -69.3       | -16.1       | -37.6                 | -88.3                   | -0.1        | -41.0              |
| 1.50    | -87.6       | -45.0       | -36.1                 | -76.7                   | -15.8       | -39.5              |
| 1.60    | -100.7      | -60.1       | -34.5                 | -66.6                   | -24.9       | -37.9              |
| 1.70    | -109.3      | -66.7       | -33.0                 | -57.8                   | -29.9       | -36.4              |
| 1.80    | -114.3      | -68.2       | -31.5                 | -50.3                   | -32.2       | -34.8              |
| 1.90    | -116.5      | -66.7       | -30.0                 | -43.9                   | -32.9       | -33.3              |
| 2.00    | -116.4      | -63.6       | -28.6                 | -38.3                   | -32.6       | -31.7              |
| 2.10    | -114.5      | -59.8       | -27.2                 | -33.6                   | -31.7       | -30.2              |
| 2.20    | -111.4      | -55.7       | -25.9                 | -29.5                   | -30.5       | -28.8              |
| 2.30    | -107.3      | -51.6       | -24.5                 | -26.0                   | -29.1       | -27.4              |
| 2.40    | -102.6      | -47.7       | -23.3                 | -23.0                   | -27.7       | -26.0              |
| 2.50    | -97.5       | -44.0       | -22.1                 | -20.4                   | -26.3       | -24.7              |
| 2.60    | -92.2       | -40.6       | -21.0                 | -18.1                   | -24.9       | -23.5              |
| 2.70    | -86.7       | -37.5       | -19.9                 | -16.2                   | -23.5       | -22.3              |
| 2.80    | -81.3       | -34.6       | -18.8                 | -14.5                   | -22.2       | -21.1              |
| 2.90    | -76.0       | -32.0       | -17.8                 | -13.0                   | -21.0       | -20.0              |
| 3.00    | -70.9       | -29.7       | -16.9                 | -11.7                   | -19.9       | -19.0              |
| 3.10    | -65.9       | -27.5       | -16.0                 | -10.5                   | -18.8       | -18.0              |
| 3.20    | -61.2       | -25.6       | -15.2                 | -9.5                    | -17.7       | -17.1              |
| 3.30    | -56.8       | -23.8       | -14.4                 | -8.6                    | -16.8       | -16.2              |
| 3.40    | -52.6       | -22.2       | -13.6                 | -7.9                    | -15.9       | -15.4              |

---

|      |       |       |       |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| 3.60 | -45.0 | -19.3 | -12.3 | -6.5 | -14.2 | -13.8 |
| 3.80 | -38.4 | -16.9 | -11.1 | -5.5 | -12.8 | -12.5 |
| 4.00 | -32.7 | -14.9 | -10.0 | -4.6 | -11.5 | -11.3 |
| 4.50 | -22.2 | -11.1 | -7.8  | -3.1 | -8.9  | -8.8  |
| 5.00 | -15.4 | -8.4  | -6.1  | -2.2 | -7.0  | -6.9  |

---

**Table 2S** Interaction energy (kcal/mol) of Li<sup>+</sup> and benzene complex calculated at MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ, MNDO/MMpol and MNDO/MM levels of theory

| <i>R</i> (Å) | MP2                      | QM/MMpol                 |   |  | QM/MM                    |   |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|---|
|              | <i>E<sub>inter</sub></i> | <i>E<sub>inter</sub></i> | <i>E<sub>QM/MMpol</sub><sup>el,q'</sup></i> | <i>E<sub>QM/MMpol</sub><sup>el,μ</sup></i> | <i>E<sub>inter</sub></i> | <i>E<sub>QM/MM</sub><sup>el,q</sup></i> |
| 1.40         | -21.9                    | -4.3                     | -18.0                                       | -27.4                                      | 13.4                     | -19.5                                   |
| 1.50         | -27.8                    | -15.0                    | -17.3                                       | -23.6                                      | 1.8                      | -18.7                                   |
| 1.60         | -31.8                    | -20.7                    | -16.6                                       | -20.3                                      | -5.3                     | -18.0                                   |
| 1.70         | -34.3                    | -23.4                    | -15.8                                       | -17.5                                      | -9.6                     | -17.3                                   |
| 1.80         | -35.6                    | -24.2                    | -15.1                                       | -15.1                                      | -12.0                    | -16.5                                   |
| 1.90         | -35.9                    | -23.9                    | -14.4                                       | -13.0                                      | -13.2                    | -15.8                                   |
| 2.00         | -35.4                    | -23.0                    | -13.7                                       | -11.3                                      | -13.7                    | -15.1                                   |
| 2.10         | -34.5                    | -21.8                    | -13.0                                       | -9.8                                       | -13.7                    | -14.4                                   |
| 2.20         | -33.1                    | -20.4                    | -12.4                                       | -8.5                                       | -13.5                    | -13.7                                   |
| 2.30         | -31.6                    | -19.1                    | -11.8                                       | -7.5                                       | -13.1                    | -13.1                                   |
| 2.40         | -29.8                    | -17.8                    | -11.2                                       | -6.5                                       | -12.6                    | -12.4                                   |
| 2.50         | -28.0                    | -16.5                    | -10.6                                       | -5.8                                       | -12.0                    | -11.8                                   |
| 2.60         | -26.2                    | -15.4                    | -10.1                                       | -5.1                                       | -11.5                    | -11.2                                   |
| 2.70         | -24.4                    | -14.3                    | -9.5  | -4.5                                       | -10.9                    | -10.6                                   |
| 2.80         | -22.6                    | -13.3                    | -9.0  | -4.0                                       | -10.4                    | -10.1                                   |
| 2.90         | -20.9                    | -12.4                    | -8.6  | -3.6                                       | -9.8                     | -9.6                                    |
| 3.00         | -19.3                    | -11.5                    | -8.1  | -3.2                                       | -9.3                     | -9.1                                    |
| 3.10         | -17.8                    | -10.8                    | -7.7  | -2.9                                       | -8.8                     | -8.6                                    |
| 3.20         | -16.4                    | -10.1                    | -7.3  | -2.6                                       | -8.4                     | -8.2                                    |
| 3.30         | -15.2                    | -9.4                     | -6.9  | -2.3                                       | -7.9                     | -7.8                                    |
| 3.40         | -14.0                    | -8.8                     | -6.6  | -2.1                                       | -7.5                     | -7.4                                    |
| 3.60         | -11.8                    | -7.8                     | -5.9  | -1.7                                       | -6.8                     | -6.7                                    |
| 3.80         | -10.1                    | -6.9                     | -5.3  | -1.5                                       | -6.1                     | -6.0                                    |

---

|      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 4.00 | -8.6 | -6.1 | -4.8 | -1.2 | -5.5 | -5.4 |
| 4.50 | -5.8 | -4.6 | -3.8 | -0.8 | -4.3 | -4.2 |
| 5.00 | -3.9 | -3.5 | -3.0 | -0.6 | -3.4 | -3.3 |

---

**Table 3S** Interaction energy (kcal/mol) of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and benzene complex calculated at MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ, PM3/MMpol and PM3/MM levels of theory

| $R$ (Å) | MP2         | QM/MMpol    |                        |                         | QM/MM       |                    |
|---------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
|         | $E_{inter}$ | $E_{inter}$ | $E_{QM/MMpol}^{el,q'}$ | $E_{QM/MMpol}^{el,\mu}$ | $E_{inter}$ | $E_{QM/MM}^{el,q}$ |
| 2.40    | -7.1        | -2.9        | -15.8                  | -6.8                    | 1.6         | -18.0              |
| 2.50    | -12.9       | -9.2        | -14.8                  | -5.9                    | -5.3        | -16.8              |
| 2.60    | -16.7       | -12.6       | -13.8                  | -5.2                    | -9.2        | -15.7              |
| 2.70    | -18.9       | -14.2       | -12.9                  | -4.7                    | -11.3       | -14.7              |
| 2.80    | -20.1       | -14.8       | -12.1                  | -4.2                    | -12.3       | -13.7              |
| 2.90    | -20.4       | -14.7       | -11.3                  | -3.7                    | -12.5       | -12.8              |
| 3.00    | -20.3       | -14.3       | -10.6                  | -3.3                    | -12.4       | -12.0              |
| 3.10    | -19.7       | -13.7       | -9.9                   | -3.0                    | -12.0       | -11.2              |
| 3.20    | -18.9       | -13.0       | -9.3                   | -2.7                    | -11.5       | -10.5              |
| 3.30    | -18.0       | -12.2       | -8.7                   | -2.5                    | -10.9       | -9.9               |
| 3.40    | -17.0       | -11.5       | -8.2                   | -2.2                    | -10.3       | -9.3               |
| 3.50    | -15.9       | -10.8       | -7.7                   | -2.0                    | -9.7        | -8.7               |
| 3.60    | -14.9       | -10.1       | -7.2                   | -1.9                    | -9.2        | -8.2               |
| 3.70    | -13.9       | -9.4        | -6.8                   | -1.7                    | -8.6        | -7.7               |
| 3.80    | -13.0       | -8.8        | -6.4                   | -1.6                    | -8.1        | -7.2               |
| 3.90    | -12.1       | -8.2        | -6.0                   | -1.4                    | -7.6        | -6.8               |
| 4.00    | -11.3       | -7.7        | -5.7                   | -1.3                    | -7.1        | -6.4               |
| 4.10    | -10.5       | -7.2        | -5.4                   | -1.2                    | -6.7        | -6.1               |
| 4.20    | -9.8        | -6.7        | -5.1                   | -1.1                    | -6.3        | -5.7               |
| 4.30    | -9.1        | -6.3        | -4.8                   | -1.0                    | -5.9        | -5.4               |
| 4.40    | -8.5        | -5.9        | -4.5                   | -0.9                    | -5.6        | -5.1               |
| 4.50    | -8.0        | -5.6        | -4.3                   | -0.9                    | -5.3        | -4.9               |
| 4.60    | -7.5        | -5.3        | -4.1                   | -0.8                    | -5.0        | -4.6               |

---

|      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 4.70 | -7.0 | -4.9 | -3.9 | -0.8 | -4.7 | -4.4 |
| 5.00 | -5.8 | -4.2 | -3.3 | -0.6 | -4.0 | -3.8 |
| 5.50 | -4.3 | -3.2 | -2.6 | -0.4 | -3.1 | -3.0 |
| 6.00 | -3.3 | -2.5 | -2.1 | -0.3 | -2.5 | -2.4 |

---

**Table 4S** Interaction energy (kcal/mol) of the S22 set. The reference energy is at CCSD(T) complete basis set level of theory[26]

|   | QM region                              | Ref[26]            | PM3/MMpol  | PM3/MM     |       |
|---|--|--------------------|------------|------------|-------|
| <i>Hydrogen bonded complexes (7)</i>                          |  |                    |            |            |       |
| 1   | Ammonia dimer ( $C_{2h}$ )             | <i>Ammonia</i>     | -3.2       | -2.0       | -2.2  |
| 2   | Water dimer ( $C_s$ )                  | <i>Donor</i>       | -5.0       | -3.2       | -3.5  |
|   |  | <i>Acceptor</i>    | -5.0       | -3.6       | -3.9  |
| 3   | Formic acid dimer ( $C_{2h}$ )         | <i>Formic acid</i> | -18.6      | -12.7      | -10.1 |
| 4   | Formamide dimer ( $C_{2h}$ )           | <i>Formamide</i>   | -16.0      | -8.9       | -8.5  |
| 5   | Uracil dimer ( $C_{2h}$ )              | <i>Uracil</i>      | -20.7      | -12.7      | -13.6 |
| 6   | 2-pyridoxine 2-aminopyridine ( $C_1$ ) | <i>2-py</i>        | -16.7      | -8.0       | -9.6  |
|   |  | <i>2-am</i>        | -16.7      | -9.9       | -9.8  |
| 7   | Adenine thymine WC ( $C_1$ )           | <i>Adenine</i>     | -16.4      | -10.0      | -10.1 |
|   |  | <i>Thymine</i>     | -16.4      | -8.3       | -9.2  |
| <b>MUE</b>  |  |                    | <b>5.5</b> | <b>5.4</b> |       |
| <b>MSE</b>  |  |                    | <b>5.5</b> | <b>5.4</b> |       |
| <i>Complexes with predominant dispersion contribution (8)</i> |  |                    |            |            |       |
| 8   | Methane dimer ( $D_{3d}$ )             | <i>Methane</i>     | -0.5       | -0.5       | -0.5  |
| 9   | Ethene dimer ( $D_{2d}$ )              | <i>Ethene</i>      | -1.5       | -0.8       | -0.8  |
| 10  | Benzene methane ( $C_3$ )              | <i>Benzene</i>     | -1.5       | -1.0       | -1.0  |
|   |  | <i>Methane</i>     | -1.5       | -1.0       | -1.1  |
| 11  | Benzene dimer ( $C_{2h}$ )             | <i>Benzene</i>     | -2.7       | -2.7       | -2.6  |
| 12  | Pyrazine dimer ( $C_s$ )               | <i>Pyrazine</i>    | -4.4       | -5.1       | -5.3  |
| 13  | Uracil dimer ( $C_2$ )                 | <i>Uracil</i>      | -10.1      | -8.9       | -9.3  |
| 14  | Indole benzene ( $C_1$ )               | <i>Indole</i>      | -5.2       | -5.4       | -5.6  |
|   |  | <i>Benzene</i>     | -5.2       | -4.1       | -4.0  |
| 15  | Adenine thymine stack ( $C_1$ )        | <i>Adenine</i>     | -12.2      | -11.6      | -12.2 |

|                            |                                  |                   |            |            |      |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------|
|                            | <i>Thymine</i>                   | -12.2             | -11.7      | -12.9      |      |
| <b>MUE</b>                 |                                  |                   | <b>0.6</b> | <b>0.5</b> |      |
| <b>MSE</b>                 |                                  |                   | <b>0.4</b> | <b>0.2</b> |      |
| <i>Mixed complexes (7)</i> |                                  |                   |            |            |      |
| 16                         | Ethene ethyne ( $C_{2v}$ )       | <i>Ethene</i>     | -1.5       | -0.7       | -0.6 |
|                            |                                  | <i>Ethyne</i>     | -1.5       | -0.9       | -0.7 |
| 17                         | Benzene water ( $C_s$ )          | <i>Benzene</i>    | -3.3       | -2.0       | -2.2 |
|                            |                                  | <i>Water</i>      | -3.3       | -3.3       | -3.4 |
| 18                         | Benzene ammonia ( $C_s$ )        | <i>Benzene</i>    | -2.4       | -1.5       | -1.6 |
|                            |                                  | <i>Ammonia</i>    | -2.4       | -2.7       | -2.9 |
| 19                         | Benzene HCN ( $C_s$ )            | <i>Benzene</i>    | -4.5       | -2.6       | -2.5 |
|                            |                                  | <i>HCN</i>        | -4.5       | -3.0       | -3.2 |
| 20                         | Benzene dimer ( $C_{2v}$ )       | <i>Vertical</i>   | -2.7       | -1.9       | -2.0 |
|                            |                                  | <i>Horizontal</i> | -2.7       | -1.8       | -1.8 |
| 21                         | Indole benzene T-shape ( $C_1$ ) | <i>Indole</i>     | -5.7       | -5.4       | -5.6 |
|                            |                                  | <i>Benzene</i>    | -5.7       | -4.1       | -4.1 |
| 22                         | Phenol dimer ( $C_1$ )           | <i>Donor</i>      | -7.1       | -4.2       | -5.1 |
|                            |                                  | <i>Acceptor</i>   | -7.1       | -4.7       | -5.3 |
| <b>MUE</b>                 |                                  |                   | <b>1.2</b> | <b>1.1</b> |      |
| <b>MSE</b>                 |                                  |                   | <b>1.1</b> | <b>1.0</b> |      |
| <i>Overall</i>             |                                  |                   |            |            |      |
| <b>MUE</b>                 |                                  |                   | <b>2.2</b> | <b>2.1</b> |      |
| <b>MSE</b>                 |                                  |                   | <b>2.2</b> | <b>2.0</b> |      |
| $r^2$                      |                                  |                   | <b>0.9</b> | <b>0.9</b> |      |



**Table 5S** Electrostatic energy contribution (kcal/mol) of the point charges and/or dipoles in the MM region to the total interaction energy of the S22 set.

|   |  | QM region          | PM3/MMpol |        | PM3/MM |
|---|--|--------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
|   |  |                    | Charge    | Dipole | Charge |
| <i>Hydrogen bonded complexes (7)</i>                          |  |                    |           |        |        |
| 1   | Ammonia dimer ( $C_{2h}$ )             | <i>Ammonia</i>     | -1.86     | -0.13  | -2.11  |
| 2   | Water dimer ( $C_s$ )                  | <i>Donor</i>       | -3.35     | -0.11  | -3.85  |
|   |  | <i>Acceptor</i>    | -3.68     | -0.17  | -4.20  |
| 3   | Formic acid dimer ( $C_{2h}$ )         | <i>Formic acid</i> | -13.21    | -0.50  | -10.43 |
| 4   | Formamide dimer ( $C_{2h}$ )           | <i>Formamide</i>   | -8.15     | -0.34  | -8.00  |
| 5   | Uracil dimer ( $C_{2h}$ )              | <i>Uracil</i>      | -11.60    | -0.56  | -13.01 |
| 6   | 2-pyridoxine 2-aminopyridine ( $C_1$ ) | <i>2-py</i>        | -6.41     | -0.40  | -8.52  |
|   |  | <i>2-am</i>        | -8.48     | -0.36  | -8.69  |
| 7   | Adenine thymine WC ( $C_1$ )           | <i>Adenine</i>     | -8.20     | -0.45  | -8.67  |
|   |  | <i>Thymine</i>     | -6.52     | -0.18  | -7.72  |
| <i>Complexes with predominant dispersion contribution (8)</i> |  |                    |           |        |        |
| 8   | Methane dimer ( $D_{3d}$ )             | <i>Methane</i>     | 0.03      | 0.00   | 0.01   |
| 9   | Ethene dimer ( $D_{2d}$ )              | <i>Ethene</i>      | -0.11     | 0.00   | -0.07  |
| 10  | Benzene methane ( $C_3$ )              | <i>Benzene</i>     | -0.03     | -0.01  | -0.01  |
|   |  | <i>Methane</i>     | -0.07     | 0.00   | -0.09  |
| 11  | Benzene dimer ( $C_{2h}$ )             | <i>Benzene</i>     | 0.71      | -0.02  | 0.69   |
| 12  | Pyrazine dimer ( $C_s$ )               | <i>Pyrazine</i>    | -1.13     | -0.01  | -1.43  |
| 13  | Uracil dimer ( $C_2$ )                 | <i>Uracil</i>      | -2.97     | -0.17  | -3.66  |
| 14  | Indole benzene ( $C_1$ )               | <i>Indole</i>      | -2.20     | -0.14  | -2.59  |
|   |  | <i>Benzene</i>     | 0.22      | -0.01  | -0.25  |
| 15  | Adenine thymine stack ( $C_1$ )        | <i>Adenine</i>     | -4.05     | -0.07  | -4.72  |
|   |  | <i>Thymine</i>     | -3.74     | -0.20  | -5.31  |

---

*Mixed complexes (7)*

|    |                                  |                   |       |       |       |
|----|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 16 | Ethene ethyne ( $C_{2v}$ )       | <i>Ethene</i>     | -0.10 | -0.26 | 0.00  |
|    |                                  | <i>Ethyne</i>     | -0.35 | -0.56 | -0.01 |
| 17 | Benzene water ( $C_s$ )          | <i>Benzene</i>    | -1.26 | -1.10 | -0.02 |
|    |                                  | <i>Water</i>      | -2.76 | -2.43 | -0.12 |
| 18 | Benzene ammonia ( $C_s$ )        | <i>Benzene</i>    | -0.54 | -0.46 | -0.02 |
|    |                                  | <i>Ammonia</i>    | -1.94 | -1.71 | -0.06 |
| 19 | Benzene HCN ( $C_s$ )            | <i>Benzene</i>    | -1.28 | -1.32 | -0.01 |
|    |                                  | <i>HCN</i>        | -2.40 | -2.09 | -0.11 |
| 20 | Benzene dimer ( $C_{2v}$ )       | <i>Vertical</i>   | -0.51 | -0.44 | -0.01 |
|    |                                  | <i>Horizontal</i> | -0.29 | -0.25 | -0.01 |
| 21 | Indole benzene T-shape ( $C_1$ ) | <i>Indole</i>     | -2.99 | -2.61 | -0.19 |
|    |                                  | <i>Benzene</i>    | -1.32 | -1.31 | -0.02 |
| 22 | Phenol dimer ( $C_1$ )           | <i>Donor</i>      | -3.08 | -2.13 | -0.13 |
|    |                                  | <i>Acceptor</i>   | -3.62 | -2.82 | -0.09 |

---