## **Supporting Information**

# Theoretical Investigation of Lanthanides and Actinides Encapsulated $M@Pb_{12}^{2-}$ and $M@Sn_{12}^{2-}$ Zintl Clusters (M = Lr<sup>n</sup>, Lu<sup>n</sup>, La<sup>3+</sup>, Ac<sup>3+</sup> and n= 0, 1, 2, 3)

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**(b)** 

Figure S4. Molecular orbital energy level diagrams of (a) bare  $Pb_{12}^{2-}$  cluster,  $Lr^{3+}$  and  $Lu^{3+}$  metal ion encapsulated  $Pb_{12}^{2-}$  clusters (b) bare  $Sn_{12}^{2-}$  cluster,  $Lr^{3+}$  and  $Lu^{3+}$  metal ion encapsulated  $Sn_{12}^{2-}$  clusters as obtained by PBE/DEF level of theory. (The HOMO energy of  $Pb_{12}^{2-}$  and  $Sn_{12}^{2-}$  is scaled with the HOMO energy of  $Lr@Pb_{12}^{+}$  and  $Lr@Sn_{12}^{+}$  cluster, respectively.)



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Table S1. Calculated Values of M–Pb/M–Sn and Pb–Pb/Sn–Sn Bond Critical Point Electron Density ( $\rho$  in e  $a_0^{-3}$ ), Laplacian of Electron Density ( $\nabla^2 \rho$  in e  $a_0^{-5}$ ), Local Electron Energy Density (E<sub>d</sub> in au), and Ratio of Local Electron Kinetic Energy Density and Electron Density (G(r)/ $\rho$  in au) and ELF Value of La@Pb<sub>12</sub><sup>+</sup> Cluster as obtained by using PBE Method with Large<sup>a</sup> and Small<sup>b</sup> Core ECP, and All Electron Basis set<sup>c</sup>. EDF has been employed for calculations with ECP basis sets.

Cluster	Bond	ρ	$\nabla^2 \rho$	G(r) <sup>b</sup>	V(r) <sup>c</sup>	E <sub>d</sub> (r)/H(r)	G(r)/p	Type <sup>d</sup>	ELF
<sup>a</sup> La@Pb <sub>12</sub> <sup>+</sup>	La-Pb	0.015	0.032	0.009	-0.009	-0.001	0.600	C, D	0.084
	Pb–Pb	0.016	0.009	0.004	-0.004	-0.001	0.250	C, D	0.420
<sup>b</sup> La@Pb <sub>12</sub> <sup>+</sup>	La–Pb	0.022	0.051	0.014	-0.016	-0.001	0.647	C, D	0.108
	Pb–Pb	0.022	0.018	0.006	-0.008	-0.002	0.286	C, D	0.387
<sup>c</sup> La@Pb <sub>12</sub> <sup>+</sup>	La-Pb	0.024	0.047	0.014	-0.016	-0.002	0.585	C, D	0.141
	Pb–Pb	0.025	0.010	0.006	-0.010	-0.004	0.244	C, D	0.499

<sup>a</sup>def–TZVP and def2–TZVP basis sets with large core for Pb(78) and La(46), respectively. <sup>b</sup>def2–TZVP and Stuttgart basis sets with small core for Pb(60) and La(28), respectively. <sup>c</sup>All electron UGBS basis set for La and Pb. Table S2. Calculated Values of Average M–Pb/M–Sn Distances ( $R_{(M-Pb/M-Sn)}$ , in Å), Pb–Pb/Sn–Sn Distances ( $R_{(Pb-Pb/Sn-Sn)}$ , in Å), Binding Energy (BE, in eV), and HOMO–LUMO Energy Gap ( $\Delta E_{Gap}$ , in eV) of Pb<sub>12</sub><sup>2–</sup>, Sn<sub>12</sub><sup>2–</sup> and Most Stable Isomer of M@Pb<sub>12</sub><sup>2–</sup> and M@Sn<sub>12</sub><sup>2–</sup> (M = Lr<sup>3+</sup>, Lu<sup>3+</sup>, La<sup>3+</sup> and Ac<sup>3+</sup>) Clusters obtained by using PBE<sup>b,c</sup> Method along with Small Core ECP.

Cluster	Geometry	R <sub>(M-Pb/M-Sn)</sub> R <sub>(Pb-Pb/Sn-Sn)</sub>		BE	$\Delta E_{Gap}$	
<sup>a</sup> Pb <sub>12</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	I <sub>h</sub>	3.086	3.244		2.150	
$a Sn_{12}^{2-}$	I <sub>h</sub>	2.968	3.121		1.930	
<sup>b</sup> Lr@Pb <sub>12</sub> <sup>+</sup>	Str1(I <sub>h</sub> )	3.258	3.426	-37.724	1.683	
<sup>b</sup> Lu@Pb <sub>12</sub> <sup>+</sup>	Str1(I <sub>h</sub> )	3.239	3.405	-38.419	1.746	
<sup>b</sup> Lr@Sn <sub>12</sub> <sup>+</sup>	Str1(I <sub>h</sub> )	3.159	3.321	-36.402	1.591	
<sup>b</sup> Lu@Sn <sub>12</sub> <sup>+</sup>	Str1(I <sub>h</sub> )	3.139	3.300	-37.201	1.670	
<sup>c</sup> La@Pb <sub>12</sub> <sup>+</sup>	Str1(I <sub>h</sub> )	3.337	3.509	-32.259	1.148	
$^{b}Ac@Pb_{12}^{+}$	Str1(I <sub>h</sub> )	3.392	3.567	-29.363	1.108	

<sup>a</sup>In the case of  $Pb_{12}^{2^-}$  and  $Sn_{12}^{2^-}$ ,  $R_{(M-Pb/M-Sn)}$  refers to the distance from the centre to the cage atoms.

<sup>b</sup>def–TZVP basis set with small core for Lr (ECP 60), Ac (ECP 60), Lu (ECP 28) and def2– TZVP basis set with small core for Pb (ECP 60), Sn (ECP 28).

<sup>c</sup>Stuttgart basis set with small core for La (ECP 28) and def2–TZVP basis set with small core for Pb (ECP 60).

Table S3. Calculated Values of M–Pb/M–Sn and Pb–Pb/Sn–Sn Bond Critical Point Electron Density ( $\rho$  in e  $a_0^{-3}$ ), Laplacian of Electron Density ( $\nabla^2 \rho$  in e  $a_0^{-5}$ ), Local Electron Energy Density (E<sub>d</sub> in au), and Ratio of Local Electron Kinetic Energy Density and Electron Density (G(r)/ $\rho$  in au) and ELF Value of M@Pb<sub>12</sub><sup>2-</sup> and M@Sn<sub>12</sub><sup>2-</sup> (M = Lr<sup>3+</sup>, Lu<sup>3+</sup>, La<sup>3+</sup> and Ac<sup>3+</sup>) Clusters as obtained by using PBE<sup>a</sup> Method along with Small Core ECP Employed with EDF.

Cluster	Bond	ρ	$\nabla^2 \rho$	G(r) <sup>b</sup>	V(r) <sup>c</sup>	E <sub>d</sub> (r)/H(r)	G(r)/p	Type <sup>d</sup>	ELF
Lr@Pb <sub>12</sub> +	Lr–Pb	0.023	0.039	0.013	-0.016	-0.003	0.541	C, D	0.158
	Pb–Pb	0.023	0.021	0.007	-0.009	-0.002	0.318	C, D	0.343
	Lu–Pb	0.022	0.037	0.012	-0.015	-0.003	0.541	C, D	0.147
	Pb–Pb	0.023	0.022	0.008	-0.010	-0.002	0.325	C, D	0.341
Lr@Sn <sub>12</sub> <sup>+</sup>	Lr–Sn	0.026	0.041	0.014	-0.018	-0.004	0.542	C, D	0.178
	Sn–Sn	0.025	0.015	0.007	-0.010	-0.003	0.271	C, D	0.456
L (	Lu–Sn	0.024	0.041	0.014	-0.017	-0.003	0.557	C, D	0.158
	Sn–Sn	0.026	0.016	0.007	-0.010	-0.003	0.275	C, D	0.453
La@Pb <sub>12</sub> +	La-Pb	0.022	0.051	0.014	-0.016	-0.001	0.647	C, D	0.108
	Pb–Pb	0.022	0.018	0.006	-0.008	-0.002	0.286	C, D	0.387
$Ac@Pb_{12}^{+}$	Ac-Pb	0.021	0.045	0.013	-0.014	-0.001	0.611	C, D	0.111
	Pb–Pb	0.020	0.015	0.005	-0.008	-0.002	0.259	C, D	0.399

<sup>a</sup>def–TZVP basis set with small core for Lr (ECP 60), Ac (ECP 60), Lu (ECP 28), def2– TZVP basis set with small core for Pb (ECP 60), Sn (ECP 28) and Stuttgart basis set with small core for La (ECP 28).

<sup>b</sup>G(r) represents the local electron kinetic energy density.

<sup>c</sup>V(r) signifies the local electron potential energy density.

<sup>d</sup>"Type" is an indication of type of very weak covalent interaction exists in between the corresponding pair of bonding atoms.

$Pb_{12}^{2-}$	${\rm Sn_{12}}^{2-}$	$Lr@Pb_{12}^+$	$Lu@Pb_{12}^+$	$Lr@Sn_{12}^+$	$Lu@Sn_{12}^{+}$
51.51 (0.0)	66.97 (0.0)	40.34 (0.0)	41.52 (0.0)	35.85 (5.82)	47.13 (6.09)
$(h_u)$	$(h_u)$	$(h_u)$	$(h_u)$	$(t_{1u})$	$(t_{1u})$
53.26 (0.0)	72.70 (0.0)	41.30 (4.04)	48.68 (4.36)	50.40 (0.0)	51.93 (0.0)
$(h_g)$	$(h_g)$	$(t_{1u})$	$(t_{1u})$	$(h_u)$	$(h_u)$
70.97 (0.0)	93.72 (0.0)	58.70 (0.0)	60.25 (0.0)	73.95 (0.0)	76.52 (0.0)
$(g_g)$	$(g_g)$	(g <sub>g</sub> )	$(g_g)$	(g <sub>u</sub> )	(g <sub>g</sub> )
75.44 (0.0)	102.62 (0.0)	62.39 (0.0)	64.09 (0.0)	74.36 (0.0)	78.06 (0.0)
(t <sub>2u</sub> )	(t <sub>2u</sub> )	(h <sub>g</sub> )	$(h_g)$	(g <sub>g</sub> )	(g <sub>u</sub> )
83.35 (0.0)	111.11 (0.0)	63.74 (0.0)	66.35 (0.0)	80.32 (0.0)	83.08 (0.0)
(g <sub>u</sub> )	(g <sub>u</sub> )	(g <sub>u</sub> )	(g <sub>u</sub> )	$(h_g)$	(h <sub>g</sub> )
89.59 (0.0)	118.54 (0.0)	84.08 (0.0)	83.30 (0.0)	115.15 (0.0)	113.96 (0.0)
$(h_g)$	$(h_g)$	(t <sub>2u</sub> )	(t <sub>2u</sub> )	$(h_g)$	(t <sub>2u</sub> )
89.30 (0.0)	122.59 (0.0)	85.56 (0.0)	86.40 (0.0)	115.45 (0.0)	115.87 (0.0)
$(a_g)$	$(a_g)$	(h <sub>g</sub> )	$(a_g)$	(t <sub>2u</sub> )	(h <sub>g</sub> )
92.84 (0.05)	124.88 (0.10)	90.17 (0.0)	90.90 (0.0)	120.67 (0.0)	121.79 (0.0)
$(t_{1u})$	$(t_{1u})$	$(a_g)$	$(a_g)$	$(a_g)$	$(a_g)$
		118.48(1.16)	132.21 (0.98)	144.96 (5.22)	157.72 (4.95)
		$(t_{1u})$	$(t_{1u})$	$(t_{1u})$	$(t_{1u})$

Table S4. Calculated Harmonic Vibrational Frequencies (in cm<sup>-1</sup>) and Intensities (in km mol<sup>-1</sup> as given in Parenthesis) of  $Pb_{12}^{2-}$ ,  $Sn_{12}^{2-}$ ,  $M@Pb_{12}^{2-}$  and  $M@Sn_{12}^{2-}$  (M =  $Lr^{3+}$  and  $Lu^{3+}$ ) Clusters as Obtained by using PBE/DEF Method.