

## **ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

### **Rethinking the $X^- + CH_3Y$ [ $X = OH, SH, CN, NH_2, PH_2$ ; $Y = F, Cl, Br, I$ ] $S_N2$ reactions**

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### **Content**

Relative energies for the stationary points of the potential energy surfaces of the  $X^- + CH_3Y$  [ $X = OH, SH, CN, NH_2, PH_2$ ;  $Y = F, Cl, Br, I$ ]  $S_N2$  reactions obtained at different levels of theory

**Table S1.** Benchmark classical and adiabatic energies (kcal/mol) of the stationary points relative to the reactants for the  $\text{OH}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Y}$  [Y = F, Cl, Br, I]  $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$  reactions (data are taken from D. A. Tasi, Z. Fábíán and G. Czako, *J. Phys. Chem. A*, 2018, **122**, 5773)

$\text{OH}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{F}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
PreMIN	-14.08	-13.87	-13.87	-13.74	0.60	-13.14
WaldenTS	-4.52	-2.44	-2.71	-2.59	0.81	-1.78
PostHMIN	-50.40	-50.32	-50.19	-50.05	1.75	-48.31
FSTS	40.04	42.56	42.44	42.74	0.36	43.10
DITS	19.71	17.00	17.23	17.45	-0.55	16.89
$\text{F}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{OH}$	-21.13	-19.76	-19.82	-19.95	2.19	-17.76
$\text{OH}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
HMIN	-16.40	-16.39	-16.33	-16.20	0.55	-15.65
HTS	-15.75	-15.47	-15.64	-15.55	0.58 <sup>g</sup>	-14.97
PreMIN	-15.83	-15.49	-15.71	-15.62	0.61 <sup>g</sup>	-15.01
WaldenTS	-13.41	-12.83	-13.26	-13.21	0.62	-12.59
PostHMIN	-67.97	-68.77	-68.91	-69.04	3.68 <sup>g</sup>	-65.36
FSMIN	-1.12	-2.74	-2.38	-2.24	0.43	-1.81
FSTS	28.73	28.92	28.64	28.81	0.39	29.19
DITS	6.66	3.31	3.51	3.60	-0.13	3.48
$\text{Cl}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{OH}$	-51.68	-52.10	-52.37	-52.65	3.17	-49.48
$\text{OH}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Br}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
HMIN	-17.13	-17.54	-17.33	-17.17	0.48	-16.70
HTS	-16.06	-16.30	-16.28	-16.17	0.57	-15.60
PreMIN	-16.18	-16.53	-16.53	-16.41	0.50	-15.92
WaldenTS	-15.50	-16.24	-16.33	-16.24	0.39 <sup>g</sup>	-15.84
PostHMIN	-72.11	-74.98	-74.75	-74.95	4.12	-70.83
FSMIN	-10.29	-11.37	-11.33	-11.21	0.55	-10.66
FSTS	23.70	22.51	22.30	22.44	0.44	22.88
DITS	3.90	0.63	0.89	1.01	0.01	1.01
$\text{Br}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{OH}$	-57.80	-60.59	-60.41	-60.80	3.58	-57.23
$\text{OH}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{I}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
HMIN	-18.40	-18.89	-18.64	-18.48	0.42	-18.06
HTS	-16.40	-16.74	-16.69	-16.57	0.50	-16.07
PostHMIN	-76.27	-79.30	-79.08	-79.43	4.49	-74.94
FSMIN	-22.90	-24.09	-24.10	-24.05	0.68	-23.37
FSTS	18.41	17.19	17.03	17.10	0.58	17.67
DITS	-0.55	-4.20	-4.13	-4.05	0.18	-3.87
$\text{I}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{OH}$	-64.18	-67.16	-67.08	-67.71	3.98	-63.74

<sup>a</sup> MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ

<sup>b</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVDZ

<sup>c</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVTZ

<sup>d</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVQZ

<sup>e</sup>  $\Delta\text{ZPE}(\text{CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVTZ})$

<sup>f</sup> QZ +  $\Delta\text{ZPE}$

<sup>g</sup> These  $\Delta\text{ZPE}$  values differ from those of *J. Phys. Chem. A*, 2018, **122**, 5773, because here ZPEs are computed using all the real harmonic frequencies, whereas in the previous work the low frequencies ( $< 50 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) were not considered during the ZPE calculations.

**Table S2.** Benchmark classical and adiabatic energies (kcal/mol) of the stationary points relative to the reactants for the  $\text{SH}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Y}$  [Y = F, Cl, Br, I]  $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$  reactions

$\text{SH}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{F}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
PreMIN	-9.53	-9.05	-8.92	-8.88	0.32	-8.56
WaldenTS	10.91	13.97	13.73	13.84	-0.10	13.74
PostHMIN	-29.75	-28.10	-27.90	-27.76	1.43	-26.33
PostHMIN2	-7.34	-5.20	-4.76	-4.56	0.50	-4.07
FSTS	50.75	53.23	53.10	53.41	-0.49	52.92
DITS	55.09	55.05	55.55	55.82	-3.93	51.89
F <sup>-</sup> +CH <sub>3</sub> SH	7.50	10.45	10.72	10.71	0.41	11.12
$\text{SH}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
PreMIN	-10.74	-10.09	-10.11	-10.12	0.25	-9.86
WaldenTS	-2.74	-1.06	-1.48	-1.53	0.17	-1.36
PostHMIN	-36.42	-34.77	-34.50	-34.57	1.54	-33.03
PostHMIN2	-31.29	-30.11	-29.88	-29.94	1.68	-28.26
WaldenPostMIN	-31.16	-29.96	-29.72	-29.85	1.44	-28.41
FSMIN	1.17	0.56	0.83	0.86	0.15	1.02
FSTS	40.45	40.39	40.19	40.29	-0.62	39.67
DITS	43.56	43.14	43.60	43.76	-3.34	40.42
Cl <sup>-</sup> +CH <sub>3</sub> SH	-23.05	-21.89	-21.84	-22.00	1.39	-20.61
$\text{SH}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Br}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
PreMIN	-11.11	-10.84	-10.69	-10.69	0.25	-10.43
WaldenTS	-6.14	-6.04	-6.15	-6.20	0.24	-5.95
PostHMIN	-40.98	-41.47	-40.85	-41.01	1.98	-39.03
PostHMIN2	-36.48	-37.46	-36.85	-37.02	2.04	-34.98
WaldenPostMIN	-36.65	-37.62	-37.02	-37.26	1.85	-35.41
FSMIN	-3.55	-3.54	-3.56	-3.55	0.22	-3.33
FSTS	35.75	34.15	34.05	34.10	-0.43	33.67
DITS	41.08	40.76	41.30	41.47	-3.27	38.20
Br <sup>-</sup> +CH <sub>3</sub> SH	-29.16	-30.38	-29.87	-30.15	1.80	-28.35
$\text{SH}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{I}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
HMIN	-10.64	-10.35	-10.13	-10.07	0.37	-9.70
PreMIN	-11.51	-11.19	-11.02	-11.03	0.28	-10.75
WaldenTS	-8.97	-8.76	-8.76	-8.85	0.34	-8.51
PostHMIN	-45.60	-46.35	-45.76	-46.10	2.43	-43.67
PostHMIN2	-41.75	-42.96	-	-42.86	2.27	-40.58
WaldenPostMIN	-42.20	-43.35	-42.83	-43.29	2.27	-41.02
FSMIN	-10.54	-10.48	-10.71	-10.81	0.22	-10.59
FSTS	31.55	29.86	29.72	29.67	-0.56	29.11
DITS	37.33	36.67	37.07	37.20	-3.07	34.12
I <sup>-</sup> +CH <sub>3</sub> SH	-35.54	-36.96	-36.54	-37.06	2.20	-34.86

<sup>a</sup> MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ

<sup>b</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVDZ

<sup>c</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVTZ

<sup>d</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVQZ

<sup>e</sup>  $\Delta\text{ZPE}(\text{CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVTZ})$

<sup>f</sup> QZ +  $\Delta\text{ZPE}$

**Table S3.** Benchmark classical and adiabatic energies (kcal/mol) of the stationary points relative to the reactants for the  $\text{CN}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Y}$  [Y = F, Cl, Br, I]  $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$  reactions

$\text{CN}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{F}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
HMIN2	-10.12	-9.50	-9.45	-9.39	0.45	-8.95
PreMIN	-9.51	-8.99	-8.97	-8.88	0.43	-8.46
WaldenTS	9.12	12.71	12.20	12.18	0.17	12.35
PostHMIN2	-31.01	-25.12	-25.66	-25.72	0.11	-25.61
FSTS	53.43	56.56	56.08	56.19	-0.51	55.68
DITS	51.12	52.43	52.26	52.38	-3.16	49.21
F <sup>-</sup> +CH <sub>3</sub> CN	-7.28	-0.32	-1.12	-1.44	0.63	-0.81
$\text{CN}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
HMIN2	-11.18	-10.34	-10.47	-10.46	0.34	-10.11
PreMIN	-10.34	-9.64	-9.80	-9.75	0.32	-9.43
WaldenTS	-1.42	0.66	-0.05	-0.18	0.35	0.18
WaldenPostMIN	-51.94	-47.06	-47.85	-48.25	1.67	-46.58
PostHMIN2	-52.20	-47.26	-48.09	-48.44	1.80	-46.65
FSMIN	1.01	0.54	0.72	0.80	0.28	1.08
FSTS	47.12	47.76	47.11	47.04	-0.56	46.48
DITS	37.84	38.72	38.47	38.45	-2.39	36.06
Cl <sup>-</sup> +CH <sub>3</sub> CN	-37.83	-32.65	-33.67	-34.15	1.61	-32.53
$\text{CN}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Br}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
HMIN1	-9.59	-9.38	-9.28	-9.22	0.36	-8.86
HMIN2	-11.30	-10.86	-10.79	-10.77	0.34	-10.43
PreMIN	-10.48	-10.21	-10.14	-10.09	0.32	-9.77
WaldenTS	-4.16	-3.73	-4.04	-4.17	0.43	-3.74
WaldenPostMIN	-57.05	-54.30	-54.72	-55.22	2.07	-53.16
PostHMIN2	-57.03	-54.22	-54.64	-55.10	2.15	-52.95
FSMIN	-3.44	-3.50	-3.48	-3.39	0.34	-3.06
FSTS	43.29	42.23	41.79	41.67	-0.39	41.28
DITS	35.34	36.45	36.30	36.30	-2.30	34.00
Br <sup>-</sup> +CH <sub>3</sub> CN	-43.95	-41.14	-41.71	-42.30	2.02	-40.28
$\text{CN}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{I}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
HMIN1	-10.06	-9.82	-9.65	-9.57	0.52	-9.06
HMIN2	-11.34	-10.90	-10.82	-10.80	0.37	-10.43
HTS2	-9.99	-9.66	-9.58	-9.54	0.40	-9.14
PreMIN	-10.50	-10.23	-10.13	-10.09	0.29	-9.79
WaldenTS	-6.21	-5.77	-5.91	-6.07	0.46	-5.61
WaldenPostMIN	-62.10	-59.53	-59.99	-60.72	2.47	-58.25
PostHMIN2	-61.86	-	-	-61.12	2.40	-58.73
FSMIN	-10.35	-10.15	-10.15	-10.13	0.30	-9.83
FSTS	40.43	38.95	38.55	38.35	-0.31	38.04
DITS	31.51	32.26	31.97	31.92	-2.04	29.88
I <sup>-</sup> +CH <sub>3</sub> CN	-50.32	-47.72	-48.38	-49.21	2.42	-46.79

<sup>a</sup> MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ

<sup>b</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVDZ

<sup>c</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVTZ

<sup>d</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVQZ

<sup>e</sup>  $\Delta\text{ZPE}(\text{CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVTZ})$

<sup>f</sup> QZ +  $\Delta\text{ZPE}$

**Table S4.** Benchmark classical and adiabatic energies (kcal/mol) of the stationary points relative to the reactants for the  $\text{NH}_2^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Y}$  [Y = F, Cl, Br, I]  $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$  reactions

$\text{NH}_2^- + \text{CH}_3\text{F}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
PreMIN	-13.13	-12.68	-12.55	-12.41	0.66	-11.75
WaldenTS	-5.56	-3.09	-3.21	-3.03	1.14	-1.89
PostHMIN	-59.41	-56.69	-56.53	-56.45	4.05	-52.40
FSTS	29.68	32.44	32.44	32.78	0.57	33.35
DITS	11.55	9.79	10.01	10.14	0.55	10.69
$\text{F}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2$	-41.65	-38.09	-38.15	-38.32	3.87	-34.46
$\text{NH}_2^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
HMIN	-15.11	-14.68	-14.57	-14.44	0.77	-13.67
PreMIN	-14.88	-14.22	-14.30	-14.20	0.58	-13.62
WaldenTS	-13.66	-12.64	-12.92	-12.82	0.68	-12.14
PostHMIN	-82.37	-80.73	-80.81	-81.01	5.33	-75.69
FSMIN	-1.03	-2.21	-1.88	-1.70	0.58	-1.12
FSTS	20.63	18.86	19.31	19.56	0.37	19.93
DITS	-1.53	-3.83	-3.63	-3.59	0.99	-2.60
$\text{Cl}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2$	-72.20	-70.43	-70.70	-71.03	4.85	-66.18
$\text{NH}_2^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Br}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
HMIN	-15.77	-15.70	-15.44	-15.29	0.79	-14.50
PreMIN	-15.46	-	-	-14.27	0.58	-13.70
PostHMIN	-87.39	-87.87	-87.58	-87.87	5.67	-82.21
FSMIN	-12.83	-12.89	-12.64	-12.52	0.99	-11.52
FSTS	16.13	12.56	13.26	13.50	-0.17	13.32
DITS	-4.42	-6.63	-6.36	-6.29	1.10	-5.19
$\text{Br}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2$	-78.31	-78.92	-78.74	-79.18	5.26	-73.92
$\text{NH}_2^- + \text{CH}_3\text{I}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
HMIN	-16.85	-16.80	-16.50	-16.34	0.68	-15.66
PreTS	-15.95	-15.85	-15.71	-15.62	0.40	-15.22
PostHMIN	-92.51	-93.17	-92.91	-93.40	6.02	-87.38
FSMIN	-25.96	-26.08	-25.85	-25.78	1.33	-24.45
FSTS	12.20	7.81	8.81	9.03	-0.39	8.64
DITS	-9.15	-11.79	-11.72	-11.70	1.37	-10.33
$\text{I}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2$	-84.69	-85.50	-85.41	-86.09	5.66	-80.43

<sup>a</sup> MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ

<sup>b</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVDZ

<sup>c</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVTZ

<sup>d</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVQZ

<sup>e</sup>  $\Delta\text{ZPE}(\text{CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVTZ})$

<sup>f</sup> QZ +  $\Delta\text{ZPE}$

**Table S5.** Benchmark classical and adiabatic energies (kcal/mol) of the stationary points relative to the reactants for the  $\text{PH}_2^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Y}$  [Y = F, Cl, Br, I]  $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$  reactions

$\text{PH}_2^- + \text{CH}_3\text{F}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
PreMIN	-8.68	-8.13	-8.02	-7.98	0.46	-7.52
WaldenTS	6.31	9.95	9.72	9.75	0.09	9.84
PostHMIN	-35.28	-32.92	-32.87	-32.79	1.58	-31.21
PostHMIN2	-28.81	-25.75	-25.51	-25.51	1.32	-24.19
FSTS	41.98	45.41	44.91	45.10	-0.66	44.44
DITS	48.67	48.55	49.06	49.16	-3.10	46.06
$\text{F}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{PH}_2$	-15.47	-11.52	-11.44	-11.67	1.34	-10.34
$\text{PH}_2^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
PreTS	-9.65	-8.91	-8.96	-8.95	0.30	-8.65
PreMIN	-9.84	-9.08	-9.16	-9.16	0.14	-9.02
WaldenTS	-5.80	-3.90	-4.21	-4.30	0.20	-4.11
PostHMIN2	-53.91	-51.80	-51.75	-52.03	2.42	-49.62
FSMIN	1.22	0.85	1.09	1.12	0.23	1.35
FSTS	32.76	31.44	31.93	31.99	-0.39	31.60
DITS	36.04	35.16	35.67	35.66	-2.36	33.30
$\text{Cl}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{PH}_2$	-46.03	-43.85	-44.00	-44.38	2.32	-42.06
$\text{PH}_2^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Br}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
PreTS	-9.82	-9.41	-9.28	-9.27	0.29	-8.98
PreMIN	-10.51	-10.16	-10.02	-10.03	0.27	-9.76
WaldenTS	-9.19	-8.70	-8.68	-8.75	0.20	-8.55
WaldenPostMIN	-57.47	-57.66	-57.29	-57.74	2.63	-55.11
PostHMIN2	-59.27	-59.29	-58.89	-59.27	2.75	-56.53
FSMIN	-4.78	-4.38	-4.41	-4.43	0.27	-4.16
FSTS	27.73	-	-	29.52	0.25	29.77
DITS	33.53	32.86	33.38	33.39	-2.18	31.21
$\text{Br}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{PH}_2$	-52.14	-52.35	-52.03	-52.53	2.72	-49.81
$\text{PH}_2^- + \text{CH}_3\text{I}$	MP2 <sup>a</sup>	DZ <sup>b</sup>	TZ <sup>c</sup>	QZ <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta\text{ZPE}^e$	Adiabatic <sup>f</sup>
PreTS	-9.95	-9.51	-9.36	-9.36	0.35	-9.01
PostHMIN2	-64.72	-64.90	-64.58	-65.17	3.22	-61.95
FSMIN	-14.32	-13.51	-13.66	-13.84	0.38	-13.46
FSTS	23.53	-	-	25.37	0.43	25.81
DITS	29.50	28.28	28.60	28.56	-2.06	26.50
$\text{I}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{PH}_2$	-58.52	-58.92	-58.71	-59.44	3.12	-56.32

<sup>a</sup> MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ

<sup>b</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVDZ

<sup>c</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVTZ

<sup>d</sup> CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVQZ

<sup>e</sup>  $\Delta\text{ZPE}(\text{CCSD(T)-F12b/aug-cc-pVTZ})$

<sup>f</sup> QZ +  $\Delta\text{ZPE}$