

Supplementary Material

Evaluation of the Effect of Nickel Clusters on the Formation of Incipient Soot Particles from Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons through ReaxFF Molecular Dynamics Simulations

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1. Additional figures

The mechanism of PAH binding through physical and chemical nucleation has been observed to be similar for the different types of PAHs studied in this work. Each case is repeated three times with three different initial trajectories. The trends observed in different trajectories lead to similar conclusions, the difference being the initiation time and the size of the cluster. Some additional figures have been included here for further clarification.

1.1 Physical Nucleation

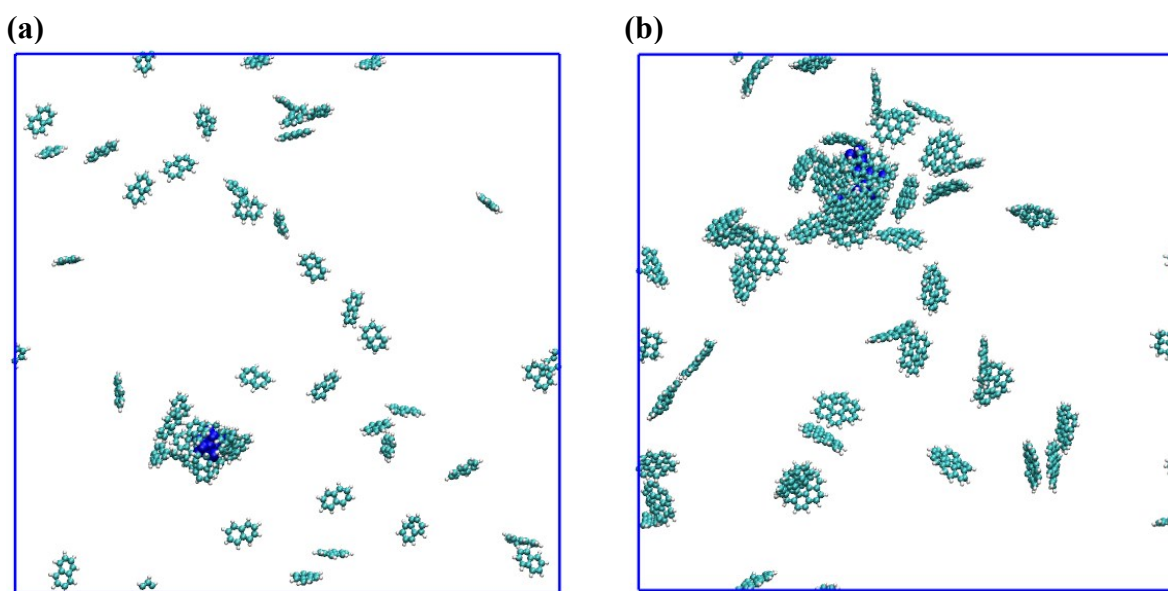


Figure S1: Snapshots demonstrating physical nucleation of soot particles obtained at the end (2000 ps) of ReaxFF-MD simulations for systems containing 50 (a) naphthalene molecules and Ni₁₃ cluster

at 800 K, and (b) coronene molecules and Ni₁₃ cluster at 1200 K. Cyan, white and blue spheres represent carbon, hydrogen and nickel atoms, respectively.

1.2 Chemical Nucleation

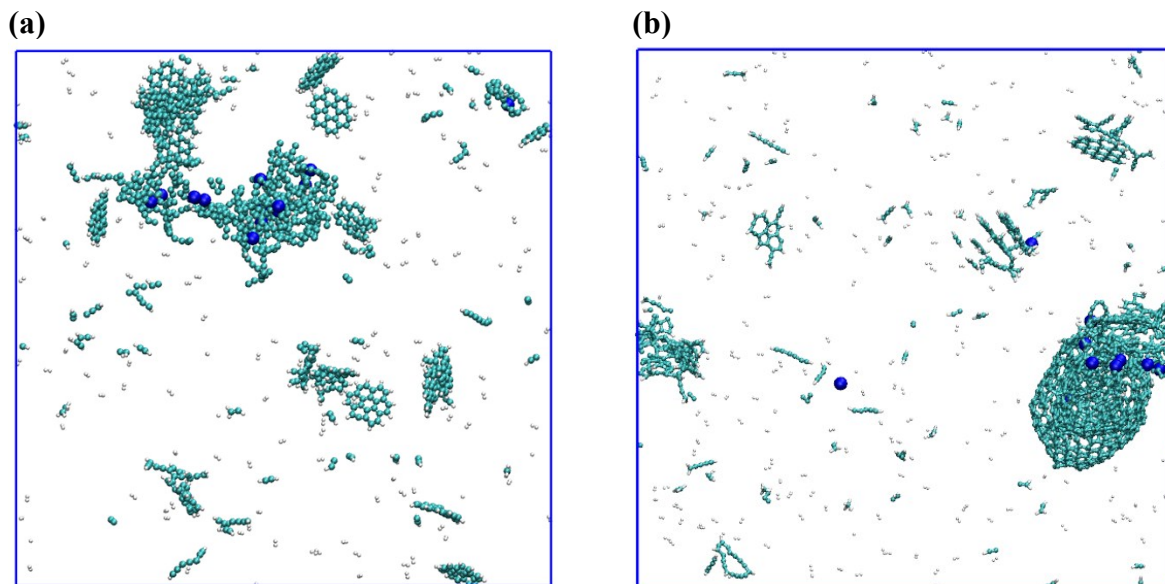


Figure S2: Snapshots demonstrating chemical nucleation of soot particles obtained at the end (2000ps) of ReaxFF-MD simulations for systems containing 50 (a) coronene molecules and Ni₁₃ cluster at 2500 K, and (b) ovalene molecules and Ni₁₃ cluster at 2500 K. Cyan, white and blue spheres represent carbon, hydrogen and nickel atoms, respectively.

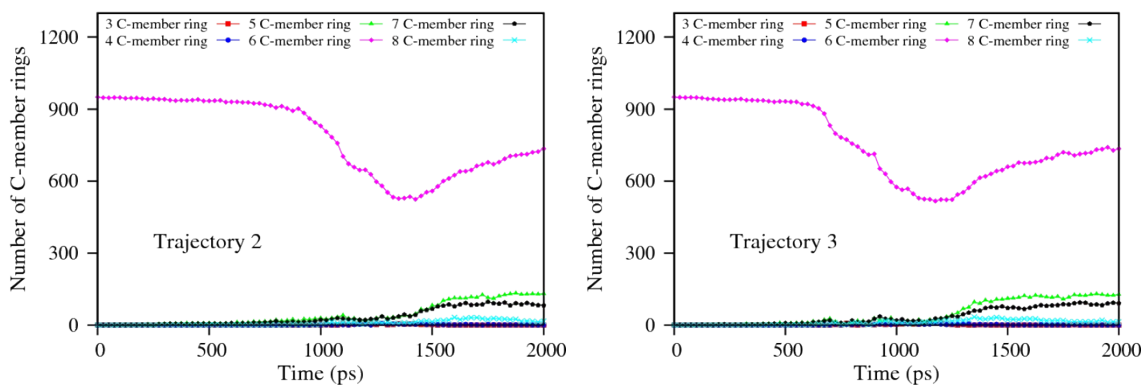


Figure S6: Ring count statistics during the soot nucleation from circumcoronene monomers as a function of simulation time at 2500 K for two additional simulations with different initial trajectories.

2. Mueller et al. Ni/C/H/O force field parameters

Reactive MD-force field: Jan28 2014 Ni/C/H/O/vacancy + Ni/CO_x

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39          ! Number of general parameters
50.0000 !Overcoordination parameter
 9.5469 !Overcoordination parameter
26.5405 !Valency angle conjugation parameter
 1.7224 !Triple bond stabilisation parameter
 6.8702 !Triple bond stabilisation parameter
70.0000 !C2-correction
 1.0588 !Undercoordination parameter
 4.6000 !Triple bond stabilisation parameter
12.1176 !Undercoordination parameter
13.3056 !Undercoordination parameter
-70.5044 !Triple bond stabilization energy
 0.0000 !Lower Taper-radius
10.0000 !Upper Taper-radius
 2.8793 !Not used
33.8667 !Valency undercoordination
 6.0891 !Valency angle/lone pair parameter
 1.0563 !Valency angle
 2.0384 !Valency angle parameter
 6.1431 !Not used
 6.9290 !Double bond/angle parameter
 0.3989 !Double bond/angle parameter: overcoord
 3.9954 !Double bond/angle parameter: overcoord
-2.4837 !Not used
 5.7796 !Torsion/BO parameter
10.0000 !Torsion overcoordination
 1.9487 !Torsion overcoordination
-1.2327 !Conjugation 0 (not used)
 2.1645 !Conjugation
 1.5591 !vdWaals shielding
 0.1000 !Cutoff for bond order (*100)
 2.1365 !Valency angle conjugation parameter
 0.6991 !Overcoordination parameter
50.0000 !Overcoordination parameter
 1.8512 !Valency/lone pair parameter
 0.5000 !Not used
20.0000 !Not used
 5.0000 !Molecular energy (not used)
 0.0000 !Molecular energy (not used)
 2.6962 !Valency angle conjugation parameter
10      ! Nr of atoms; cov.r; valency;a.m;Rvdw;Evdw;gammaEEM;cov.r2;#
        alfa;gammavdW;valency;Eunder;Eover;chiEEM;etaEEM;n.u.
        cov r3;Elp;Heat inc.;n.u.;n.u.;n.u.;n.u.
        ov/un;vall;n.u.;val3,vval4
C      1.3674   4.0000  12.0000   2.0453   0.1444   0.8485   1.1706
4.0000
      9.0000   1.5000   4.0000  30.0000  79.5548   4.8446   7.0000
0.0000
      1.1168   0.0000 181.0000  14.2732  24.4406   6.7313   0.8563
0.0000
      -4.1021   5.0000   1.0564   4.0000   2.9663   0.0000   0.0000
0.0000

```

H	0.8930	1.0000	1.0080	1.3550	0.0930	0.8203	-0.1000
1.0000							
	8.2230	33.2894	1.0000	0.0000	121.1250	3.7248	9.6093
1.0000							
	-0.1000	0.0000	61.6606	3.0408	2.4197	0.0003	1.0698
0.0000							
	-19.4571	4.2733	1.0338	1.0000	2.8793	0.0000	0.0000
0.0000							
O	1.2450	2.0000	15.9990	2.3890	0.1000	1.0898	1.0548
6.0000							
	9.7300	13.8449	4.0000	37.5000	116.0768	8.5000	8.3122
2.0000							
	0.9049	0.4056	59.0626	3.5027	0.7640	0.0021	0.9745
0.0000							
	-3.5500	2.9000	1.0493	4.0000	2.9225	0.0000	0.0000
0.0000							
Fe	1.9029	3.0000	55.8450	2.0990	0.1181	0.4744	-1.6836
3.0000							
	10.8548	2.6084	3.0000	0.0000	18.3725	1.7785	8.6281
0.0000							
	-1.2000	0.0000	102.1000	25.3430	10.1260	0.7590	0.8563
0.0000							
	-16.0573	2.6997	1.0338	6.0000	2.5791	0.0000	0.0000
0.0000							
Al	2.4443	3.0000	26.9820	2.0089	0.2161	0.5675	-1.6836
3.0000							
	11.8538	16.3962	3.0000	0.0076	16.5151	-0.2451	6.3319
0.0000							
	-1.0000	0.0000	67.5458	137.9671	0.2042	0.0000	0.8563
0.0000							
	-14.9162	3.0000	1.0338	3.0000	2.5791	0.0000	0.0000
0.0000							
Ni	1.8244	2.0000	58.6900	1.8442	0.1840	0.8105	0.1000
2.0000							
	12.3227	3.8387	2.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0100	6.1195
0.0000							
	-1.0000	0.0000	103.2000	50.6786	0.6762	0.0981	0.8563
0.0000							
	-19.6282	3.6035	1.0338	8.0000	2.5791	0.0000	0.0000
0.0000							
Cu	1.9202	2.0000	63.5460	1.9221	0.2826	1.0000	0.1000
1.0000							
	10.9889	100.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2.7875	6.0000
0.0000							
	-1.0000	0.0000	80.7000	34.9555	0.4988	0.0000	0.8563
0.0000							
	-5.1872	3.1491	1.0000	4.0000	2.5791	0.0000	0.0000
0.0000							
S	1.8328	2.0000	32.0600	1.8815	0.3236	0.7530	1.6468
6.0000							
	9.0000	4.9055	4.0000	30.0000	112.1416	6.5745	9.0000
2.0000							

0.0000	1.0000	3.4994	65.0000	12.0000	22.1978	15.3230	0.9745	
0.0000	-15.7363	2.8802	1.0338	6.2998	2.8793	0.0000	0.0000	
6.0000	Cr 1.8834	3.0000	51.9962	2.3133	0.2205	0.4744	-1.6836	
0.0000	10.2460	3.2000	3.0000	0.0000	18.3190	1.4000	9.0000	
0.0000	-1.2000	0.0000	102.1000	25.3430	10.1260	0.7590	0.8563	
0.0000	-4.1000	2.6997	1.0338	6.0000	2.5791	0.0000	0.0000	
6.0000	X -0.1000	2.0000	1.0080	2.0000	0.0000	0.0100	-0.1000	
0.0000	10.0000	2.5000	4.0000	0.0000	0.0000	5.0000	9999.9999	
0.0000	-0.1000	0.0000	-2.3700	8.7410	13.3640	0.6690	0.9745	
0.0000	-11.0000	2.7466	1.0338	2.0000	2.8793	0.0000	0.0000	
35	! Nr of bonds; Edisl;LPpen;n.u.;pbe1;pbo5;13corr;pbo6 pbe2;pbo3;pbo4;n.u.;pbo1;pbo2;ovcorr							
0.7769	1 1	80.8865	107.9944	52.0636	0.5218	-0.3636	1.0000	34.9876
0.0000		6.1244	-0.1693	8.0804	1.0000	-0.0586	8.1850	1.0000
0.6281	1 2	180.6309	0.0000	0.0000	-0.4794	0.0000	1.0000	6.0000
0.0000		12.2202	1.0000	0.0000	1.0000	-0.0670	6.8158	0.0000
0.7300	2 2	153.3934	0.0000	0.0000	-0.4600	0.0000	1.0000	6.0000
0.0000		6.2500	1.0000	0.0000	1.0000	-0.0790	6.0552	0.0000
1.0000	1 3	163.3110	83.9973	54.4316	-0.5220	-0.3123	1.0000	10.2503
0.0000		0.3553	-0.3757	7.0000	1.0000	-0.1331	4.6021	0.0000
0.5626	2 3	160.0000	0.0000	0.0000	-0.5725	0.0000	1.0000	6.0000
0.0000		1.1150	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	-0.0920	4.2790	0.0000
0.6051	3 3	142.2858	145.0000	50.8293	0.2506	-0.1000	1.0000	29.7503
0.0000		0.3451	-0.1055	9.0000	1.0000	-0.1225	5.5000	1.0000
0.5000	1 4	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	-0.3000	1.0000	36.0000
0.0000		0.2350	-0.3500	15.0000	1.0000	-0.2000	8.0000	1.0000
0.5000	2 4	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	-0.3000	1.0000	36.0000

0.0000		0.2350	-0.3500	15.0000	1.0000	-0.2000	8.0000	1.0000
0.0852	3 4	67.5128	0.0000	0.0000	0.1301	-0.3000	0.0000	36.0000
0.0000		1.0000	-0.3500	15.0000	1.0000	-0.0629	7.1208	0.0000
0.2682	4 4	41.4611	0.0000	0.0000	0.2931	-0.2000	0.0000	16.0000
0.0000		0.6294	-0.2000	15.0000	1.0000	-0.0512	6.8013	0.0000
0.5000	1 5	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	-0.3000	1.0000	36.0000
0.0000		0.2350	-0.3500	15.0000	1.0000	-0.2000	8.0000	1.0000
0.5000	2 5	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	-0.3000	1.0000	36.0000
0.0000		0.2350	-0.3500	15.0000	1.0000	-0.2000	8.0000	1.0000
0.0100	3 5	175.2517	0.0000	0.0000	-0.8707	-0.3000	0.0000	36.0000
0.0000		0.9278	-0.3500	25.0000	1.0000	-0.1183	4.6533	0.0000
0.2822	4 5	64.0323	0.0000	0.0000	-0.2720	-0.3000	0.0000	16.0000
0.0000		2.2322	-0.4197	14.3085	1.0000	-0.2524	7.2814	0.0000
0.2955	5 5	65.7742	0.0000	0.0000	-0.4111	-0.3000	0.0000	16.0000
0.0000		2.8637	-0.4197	14.3085	1.0000	-0.1993	4.8757	0.0000
0.0100	1 6	72.3357	14.1215	0.0000	0.2743	-0.2000	1.0000	16.0000
0.0000		3.0781	-0.0871	13.4739	1.0000	-0.1539	4.5484	1.0000
0.1422	2 6	101.5086	0.0000	0.0000	-0.4746	0.0000	1.0000	6.0000
0.0000		0.1863	1.0000	0.0000	1.0000	-0.0963	5.5382	0.0000
0.0715	3 6	86.9034	0.0000	0.0000	0.3377	-0.2000	1.0000	16.0000
0.0000		2.5302	-0.2500	15.0000	1.0000	-0.1923	4.8493	1.0000
0.2063	4 6	77.1297	0.0000	0.0000	-0.0431	-0.2000	0.0000	16.0000
0.0000		4.3648	-0.2000	15.0000	1.0000	-0.2542	5.5181	0.0000
0.2283	5 6	62.3744	0.0000	0.0000	-0.0066	-0.2000	0.0000	16.0000
0.0000		10.9966	-0.2000	15.0000	1.0000	-0.1072	4.0000	0.0000
0.3225	6 6	90.1410	0.0000	0.0000	-0.3857	-0.2000	0.0000	16.0000

0.0000		1.0927	-0.2000	15.0000	1.0000	-0.1027	4.6972	0.0000
0.5000	2 7	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.2000	-0.1418	1.0000	13.1260
0.0000		0.5000	-0.2000	20.0000	1.0000	-0.1000	9.0000	0.0000
0.0025	3 7	81.4346	0.0000	0.0000	-0.1594	-0.3000	1.0000	36.0000
0.0000		0.2904	-0.2500	12.0000	1.0000	-0.0742	9.3638	0.0000
0.3414	7 7	73.6263	0.0000	0.0000	0.0209	-0.2000	0.0000	16.0000
0.0000		0.4703	-0.2000	15.0000	1.0000	-0.1319	5.9254	0.0000
0.1958	1 8	192.1462	90.5383	55.2528	-0.5652	-0.5211	1.0000	18.9617
0.0000		2.0000	-0.1016	13.8750	1.0000	-0.1579	5.5813	1.0000
0.3870	2 8	188.3744	0.0000	0.0000	-0.6562	0.0000	1.0000	6.0000
0.0000		11.8360	1.0000	0.0000	1.0000	-0.0762	5.0961	1.0000
0.0500	3 8	107.2917	202.9813	40.0000	0.4728	-0.2406	1.0000	22.1005
0.0000		0.6528	-0.3341	7.9877	1.0000	-0.0909	6.9512	1.0000
0.1769	4 8	75.5280	0.0000	0.0000	-0.4815	-0.3390	0.0000	16.0000
0.0000		0.2800	-0.1838	15.0000	1.0000	-0.0758	6.3424	0.0000
0.1762	5 8	123.2631	0.0000	0.0000	-0.4814	-0.3000	0.0000	16.0000
0.0000		4.6653	-0.4197	14.3085	1.0000	-0.1984	5.8018	0.0000
0.1000	6 8	90.8688	0.0000	0.0000	0.4233	-0.2000	0.0000	16.0000
0.0000		0.1604	-0.2500	25.0000	1.0000	-0.1028	5.0666	0.0000
0.0999	8 8	86.8868	69.1367	0.0000	-0.9993	-0.4781	1.0000	17.8574
0.0000		0.2799	-0.1677	8.2557	1.0000	-0.1131	6.1440	1.0000
0.5000	2 9	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	-0.3000	1.0000	36.0000
0.0000		0.3000	-0.3500	15.0000	1.0000	-0.2000	8.0000	1.0000
0.0100	3 9	103.1988	13.4351	0.0000	0.3247	-0.2172	1.0000	36.0000
0.0000		1.9519	-0.2293	9.6056	1.0000	-0.2000	5.7127	1.0000
0.0100	8 9	103.3203	0.0000	0.0000	0.6642	-0.3891	1.0000	36.0000

8 5 8	92.5166	8.8772	2.9319	0.0000	0.2516	0.0000
1.0620						
5 8 5	73.8915	23.2173	2.0851	0.0000	0.0100	0.0000
2.6540						
5 5 8	69.3869	3.0494	3.0000	0.0000	0.6079	0.0000
1.0000						
5 8 8	30.9172	16.7973	1.5917	0.0000	0.9584	0.0000
2.1273						
2 8 5	83.4937	25.0000	1.0000	0.5000	0.5409	0.0000
1.1378						
5 2 8	0.0000	10.0000	1.0000	0.5000	0.2500	0.0000
1.5000						
8 8 8	84.2345	15.5790	3.7715	0.0000	1.3066	0.0000
1.6270						
1 6 1	86.9687	17.4560	0.6761	0.0000	1.3985	0.0000
1.0000						
1 1 6	81.6643	16.7896	0.9911	0.0000	0.0100	0.0000
1.2853						
6 1 6	91.9774	25.3393	3.6465	0.0000	0.0100	0.0000
3.0000						
1 6 6	28.2735	4.0839	0.8183	0.0000	0.8382	0.0000
1.8508						
2 6 2	85.1733	30.0000	1.5231	0.0000	3.0000	0.0000
3.2533						
2 2 6	0.0000	8.0096	0.3378	0.0000	0.6843	0.0000
4.0000						
6 2 6	0.0000	29.9951	5.6363	0.0000	1.2512	0.0000
2.0120						
2 6 6	42.3753	1.9810	6.2947	0.0000	0.5297	0.0000
4.0000						
2 6 6	180.0000	-30.0000	12.8298	0.0000	1.3351	0.0000
1.1937						
3 3 6	90.0000	37.7567	4.4033	0.0000	1.1448	0.0000
1.0000						
6 3 6	88.1216	15.8581	2.7094	0.0000	0.6326	0.0000
1.1340						
3 6 3	33.8130	15.1818	4.0000	0.0000	0.0354	0.0000
1.3198						
3 6 6	19.7429	2.9501	3.6277	0.0000	0.0732	0.0000
1.7069						
2 1 6	90.0000	37.8850	0.4107	0.0000	2.7596	0.0000
1.0000						
1 2 6	0.0000	0.1000	0.9742	0.0000	0.8492	0.0000
3.8603						
1 6 2	100.0000	45.0000	0.7043	0.0000	0.6704	0.0000
1.0000						
1 3 6	63.5380	29.3917	1.6142	0.0000	1.6844	0.0000
1.0470						
3 1 6	58.5735	27.3130	1.4647	0.0000	1.2802	0.0000
1.0000						
1 6 3	60.0910	28.8774	1.8703	0.0000	1.0116	0.0000
1.0796						

2 3 6	30.2285	16.5089	2.5143	0.5000	1.0129	0.0000
1.5363						
3 2 6	0.0000	7.1233	1.9895	0.5000	0.3233	0.0000
1.1000						
8 6 8	0.2000	6.6443	1.2359	0.0000	0.0156	0.0000
1.1250						
6 8 6	107.2989	23.4838	0.7435	0.0000	0.2609	0.0000
1.3395						
6 6 8	18.7110	13.5233	0.1006	0.0000	0.0747	0.0000
1.3658						
6 8 8	54.9369	16.5560	6.0000	0.0000	0.2213	0.0000
1.5255						
2 8 6	83.4937	16.7605	0.8242	0.5000	0.5409	0.0000
1.1378						
6 2 8	0.0000	10.0000	1.0000	0.5000	0.2500	0.0000
1.5000						
2 8 2	90.0601	42.2756	0.5302	0.0000	0.3707	0.0000
1.0071						
2 8 8	66.1035	8.0885	1.0424	0.0000	0.7355	0.0000
3.0000						
3 5 8	19.4072	10.4590	2.8285	0.0000	1.0074	0.0000
2.3949						
3 8 5	83.6415	19.7500	2.9247	0.0000	1.9437	0.0000
1.0348						
5 3 8	89.6617	15.3276	2.7567	0.0000	1.6031	0.0000
1.0781						
5 3 6	95.3249	30.0000	0.6664	0.0000	2.0000	0.0000
1.0000						
3 5 6	4.7439	7.2911	1.8650	0.0000	1.5814	0.0000
1.4132						
3 6 5	39.4301	10.2218	1.3968	0.0000	1.8777	0.0000
1.6288						
1 1 8	71.4462	27.2223	6.7228	0.0000	0.0050	0.0000
2.6454						
1 8 1	92.6710	15.6798	3.1104	0.0000	0.3458	0.0000
2.3207						
2 1 8	43.6595	11.8933	0.5449	0.0000	0.0050	0.0000
1.9326						
1 8 2	99.1897	14.1666	2.5588	0.0000	0.3542	0.0000
2.5990						
1 8 8	89.3910	5.0000	7.0000	0.0000	1.0050	0.0000
1.5000						
3 8 3	83.5231	37.5859	0.9881	-0.0100	1.4725	0.0000
1.0641						
1 8 3	79.9791	29.5117	7.0000	0.0000	0.0050	0.0000
1.2255						
1 3 8	83.1032	23.4174	0.7741	0.0000	1.2168	0.0000
2.7365						
3 3 8	60.2631	30.0701	2.1707	0.0000	1.3323	0.0000
1.0192						
3 8 8	55.9402	38.2990	3.6930	0.0000	2.2673	0.0000
1.0000						

6	1	1	6	0.0000	23.4625	2.2056	-4.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0000									
2	1	1	6	0.0000	29.9163	0.6973	-4.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0000									
2	1	6	1	0.0000	0.0100	0.0100	-6.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0000									
1	1	6	1	0.0000	0.7817	0.0100	-5.9539	0.0000	0.0000
0.0000									
1	1	6	2	0.0000	6.0983	0.0100	-5.9539	0.0000	0.0000
0.0000									

4 ! Nr of hydrogen bonds;at1;at2;at3;Rhb;Dehb;vhb1

3	2	3	2.1200	-3.5800	1.4500	19.5000
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3	2	8	2.5000	-1.0000	1.4500	19.5000
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8	2	3	2.5000	-1.0000	1.4500	19.5000
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8	2	8	2.5000	-2.0000	1.4500	19.5000
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