

## Supplemental Material

### Computing the $^7\text{Li}$ NMR Chemical Shielding of Hydrated $\text{Li}^+$ Using Cluster Calculations and Time-Averaged Configurations from *Ab Initio* Molecular Dynamic Simulations

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**Table S1:** Predicted  $^7\text{Li}$  NMR chemical shielding ( $\sigma$ ) as a function of theory level and basis set.

Theory/Basis Set	$\text{Li}^+$ $\sigma$ (ppm)	$\text{Li}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4$ $\sigma$ (ppm)	$\text{Li}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4$ $\Delta\sigma^{\text{Li}}$ (ppm)
HF/3-21G*	94.6	92.3	+2.3
HF/6-31G(d)	95.4	93.0	+2.4
HF/6-311(d)	95.4	93.2	+2.2
HF/6-311(2d,2p)	95.4	92.8	+2.6
HF/6-311++(2d,2p)	95.4	92.8	+2.6
HF/6-311++(2df,2p)	95.4	92.8	+2.6
HF/Aug-CC-pVTZ	95.4	92.5	+2.9
B3LYP/3-21G*	94.3	91.2	+3.1
B3LYP/6-31G(d)	95.1	91.4	+3.7
B3LYP/6-311(d)	95.3	92.1	+3.2
B3LYP/6-311(2d,2p)	95.3	91.4	+3.9
B3LYP/6-311++(2d,2p)	95.3	91.3	+4.0
B3LYP/6-311++(2df,2p)	95.3	91.3	+4.0
B3LYP/Aug-CC-pVTZ	95.2	90.6	+4.6
MP2/6-311++(2df,2p)	95.3	92.8	+2.5
B3PW91/6-311++(2df,2p)	95.3	91.5	+3.8
MPW1PW91/6-311++(2df,2p)	95.4	91.7	+3.7

$$\Delta\sigma^{\text{Li}} = \sigma(\text{Li}^+) - \sigma(\text{cluster})$$

B3LYP = Beck's three-parameter hybrid exchange functional and Lee, and Yang and Parr correlation functional.

B3PW91 = Beck's three-parameter hybrid exchange functional and Lee, and Perdew-Wang 1991 correlation functional.

MPW1PW91 = Modified Perdew-Wang exchange functional, and Perdew-Wang 1991 correlation functional.

## Empirical Variation of the Li NMR Shielding

Previous arguments had suggested that the NMR shielding could be described by the relationship,

$$\sigma_{\text{iso}}(^{6,7}\text{Li}) = \sigma_0 - C \left[ \sum_i \frac{W_i}{r_i^3} \right] \quad (\text{S1})$$

This does not appear to describe the Li-O bond variation that we have predicted for the  $\text{Li}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$  ( $n = 1-5$ ) clusters. Instead we propose the following modified relationship that allows for a different scaling factor  $f_i^N$  for a given coordination number  $N$ ,

$$\sigma_{\text{iso}}(^{6,7}\text{Li}) = \sigma_0 + \left[ \sum_i^N \frac{f_i^N W_i}{r_i^3} \right] \approx \sigma_0 + \frac{N f^N W}{r^3} \quad (\text{S2})$$

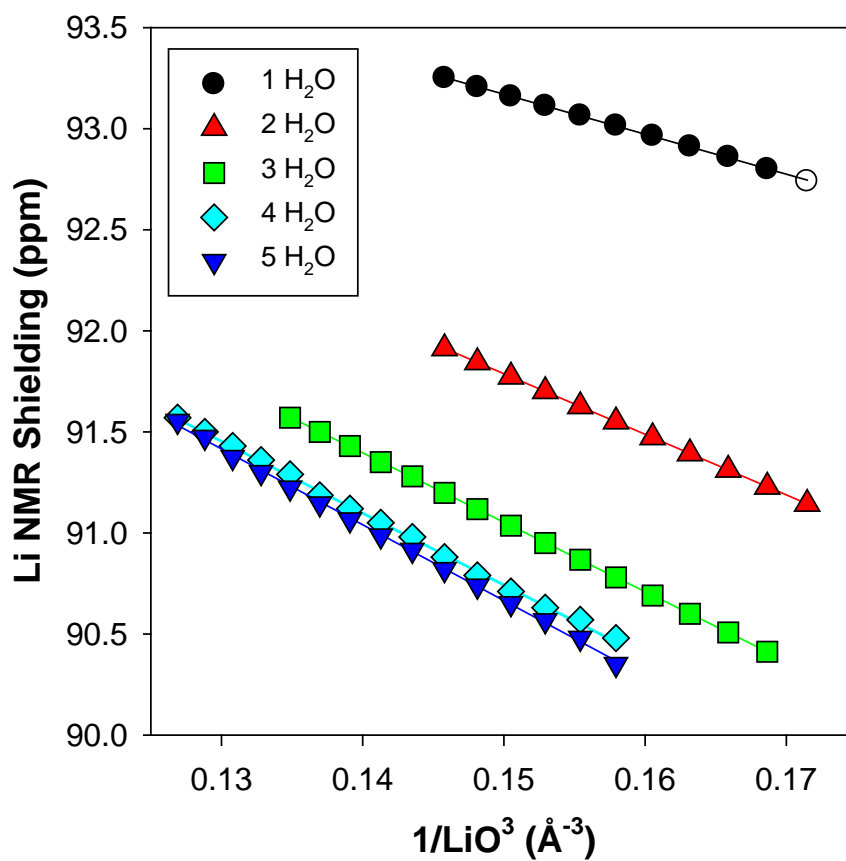
For this relationship it has been assumed that the bond valence  $W^i$  is constant (all waters in this case). For these small hydrated clusters, the Li-O bond distances are essentially the same for a given coordination number. The coefficients for this linear fit to the predicted variation shown in Figure S1 are given in Table S2. It is important to note that  $f^N$  changes with coordination number ( $N$ ), and is the reason the original relationship in Eq. S1 did not hold. This may suggest that bond valence  $W$  varies with coordination, and that changes in the effective charge of the Li may play a role in the observed shielding. This will be pursued in detail in future research efforts.

**Table S2:** Empirical fit of the  $^7\text{Li}$  NMR chemical shielding ( $\sigma$ ) as a function of Li-O bond length in gas optimized clusters. <sup>a,b</sup>

Complex	N	$Nf^N W$ (ppm/Å)	$f^N W$ (ppm/Å)	$\sigma_0$ (ppm)	R
$\text{Li}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})$	1	-19.77	-19.77	96.135	0.99971
$\text{Li}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2$	2	-29.99	-14.99	96.286	0.99999
$\text{Li}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3$	3	-34.37	-11.46	96.208	0.99997
$\text{Li}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4$	4	-35.55	-8.89	96.078	0.99865
$\text{Li}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5$	5	-37.53	-7.51	96.295	0.99898

<sup>a</sup> NMR shielding of cluster calculated in the gas phase.

<sup>b</sup> Fits to Eqn. S2.



**Figure S1:** Variation of the predicted Li NMR chemical shielding for the  $\text{Li}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$  clusters as a function of inverse bond distance cubed,  $(\text{Li}-\text{O})^{-3}$ .

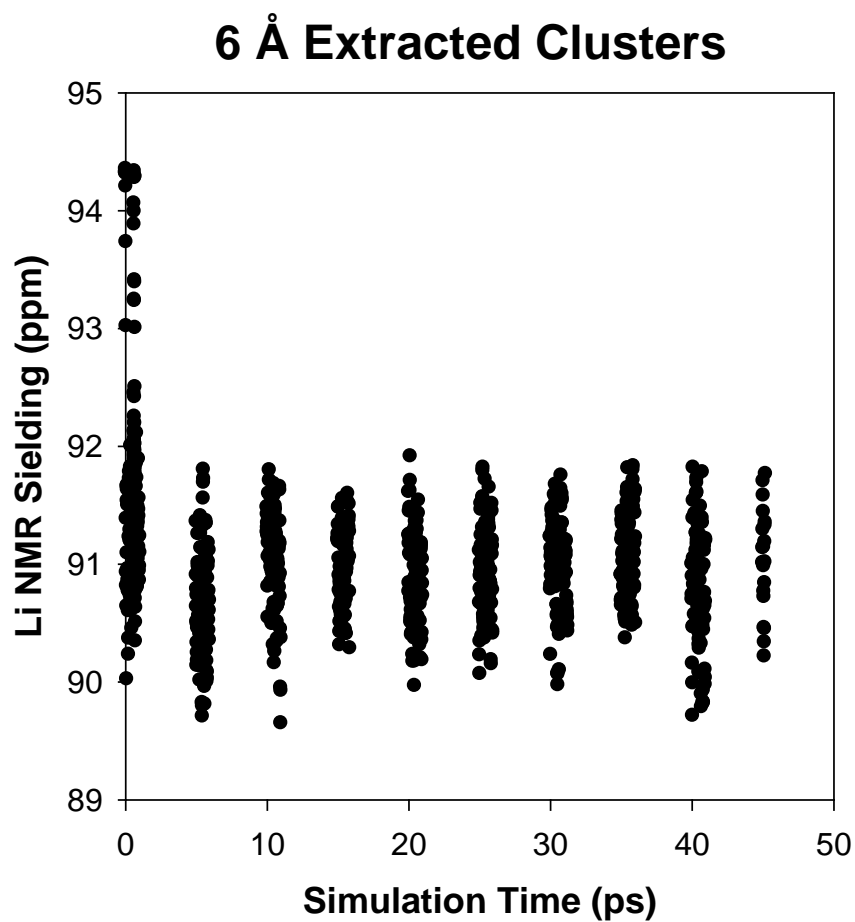


Figure S2: The Li NMR Chemical shielding for all clusters extracted assuming a Li-O cut-off distance of 6 Å. 1 ps regions were analyzed for every 5 ps intervals during the simulation. Note the initial 1 ps results have a high degree of dispersion due to the system not being equilibrated.