

**Supplementary information to  
“Solvation in nitration of benzene and the valence  
electronic structure of Wheland intermediate”**

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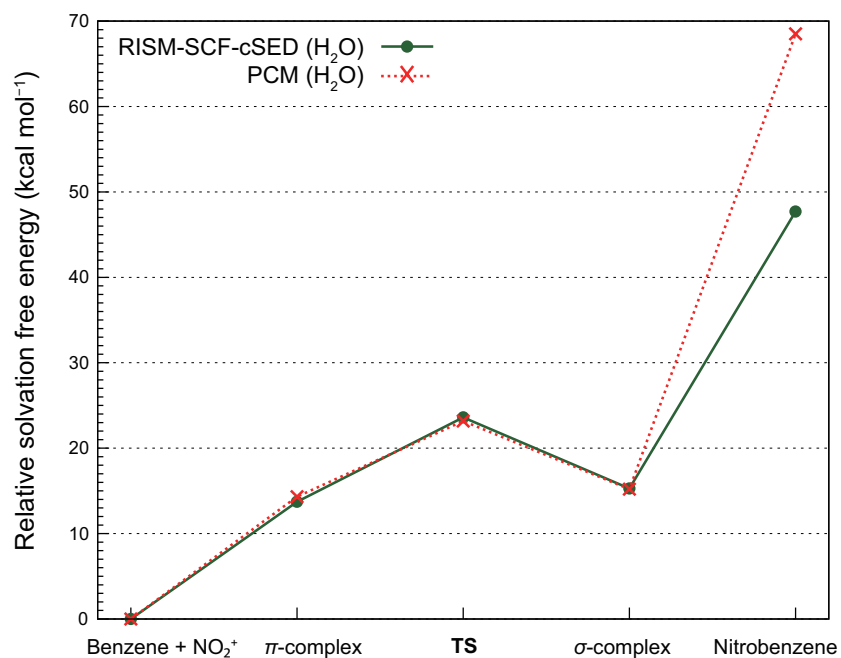


Figure S1: Relative solvation free energies (kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) in the process of nitration of benzene in the H<sub>2</sub>O solution evaluated with the RISM-SCF-cSED and PCM. Solvation free energy in the PCM was evaluated as  $E_{el} + E_{disp} + E_{rep} + E_{cav} - \langle \Psi | H | \Psi \rangle$  where  $\Psi$  is the wave function in solution.

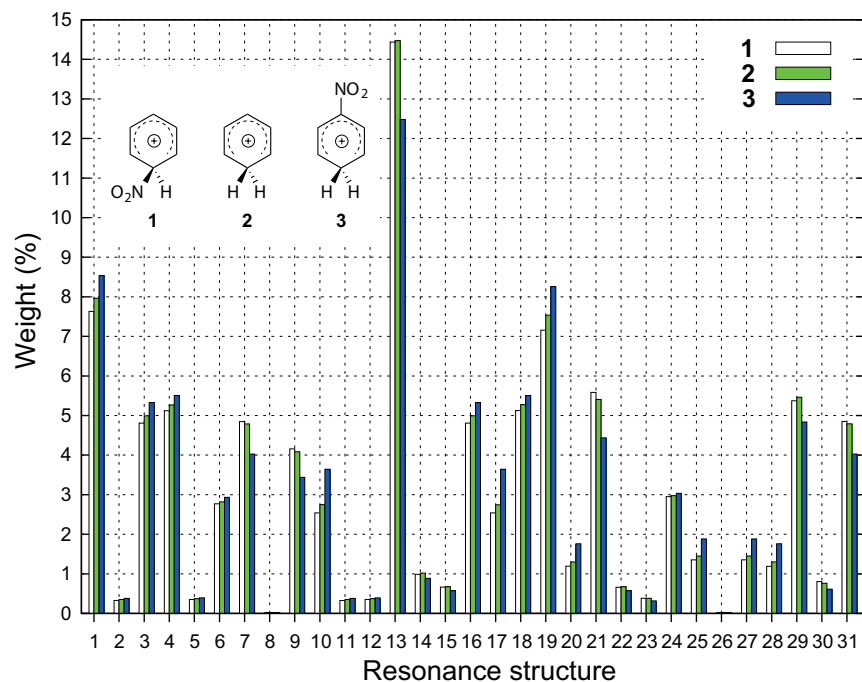


Figure S2: Weights of resonance structures in the three  $\sigma$ -complexes (**1**, **2** and **3** shown in the figure) calculated with M06-2X/6-311G(d,p) in the gas phase.

Table S1: Weights (%) of resonance structures in the  $\sigma$ -complex (**1**) calculated by various methods with 6-311G(d,p).<sup>a</sup>

| Structure | Degeneracy | Hartree-Fock | M06-2X | B3LYP  | BLYP   |
|-----------|------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>1</b>  | 4          | 7.00         | 7.63   | 7.68   | 7.72   |
| <b>2</b>  | 4          | 0.22         | 0.33   | 0.34   | 0.36   |
| <b>3</b>  | 4          | 4.75         | 4.81   | 4.80   | 4.75   |
| <b>4</b>  | 4          | 4.21         | 5.12   | 5.31   | 5.50   |
| <b>5</b>  | 4          | 0.20         | 0.35   | 0.38   | 0.42   |
| <b>6</b>  | 4          | 2.57         | 2.77   | 2.83   | 2.85   |
| <b>7</b>  | 2          | 5.35         | 4.85   | 4.71   | 4.61   |
| <b>8</b>  | 2          | 0.01         | 0.02   | 0.02   | 0.03   |
| <b>9</b>  | 2          | 4.82         | 4.16   | 4.01   | 3.88   |
| <b>10</b> | 2          | 1.87         | 2.54   | 2.70   | 2.84   |
| <b>11</b> | 2          | 0.22         | 0.33   | 0.34   | 0.36   |
| <b>12</b> | 2          | 0.20         | 0.35   | 0.38   | 0.42   |
| <b>13</b> | 2          | 17.82        | 14.44  | 13.62  | 12.92  |
| <b>14</b> | 2          | 0.83         | 0.99   | 0.98   | 0.99   |
| <b>15</b> | 2          | 0.50         | 0.66   | 0.68   | 0.71   |
| <b>16</b> | 2          | 4.75         | 4.81   | 4.80   | 4.75   |
| <b>17</b> | 2          | 1.87         | 2.54   | 2.70   | 2.84   |
| <b>18</b> | 2          | 4.21         | 5.13   | 5.31   | 5.50   |
| <b>19</b> | 2          | 7.91         | 7.16   | 6.93   | 6.67   |
| <b>20</b> | 1          | 1.05         | 1.19   | 1.22   | 1.23   |
| <b>21</b> | 2          | 5.79         | 5.58   | 5.56   | 5.53   |
| <b>22</b> | 2          | 0.50         | 0.66   | 0.68   | 0.71   |
| <b>23</b> | 2          | 0.27         | 0.38   | 0.40   | 0.42   |
| <b>24</b> | 2          | 2.27         | 2.95   | 3.13   | 3.30   |
| <b>25</b> | 1          | 0.83         | 1.35   | 1.50   | 1.64   |
| <b>26</b> | 2          | 0.01         | 0.02   | 0.02   | 0.03   |
| <b>27</b> | 2          | 0.83         | 1.35   | 1.50   | 1.64   |
| <b>28</b> | 2          | 1.05         | 1.19   | 1.22   | 1.23   |
| <b>29</b> | 1          | 7.41         | 5.37   | 4.92   | 4.53   |
| <b>30</b> | 1          | 0.78         | 0.80   | 0.82   | 0.83   |
| <b>31</b> | 2          | 5.35         | 4.85   | 4.71   | 4.61   |
| Others    |            | 4.54         | 5.30   | 5.79   | 6.16   |
| Total     |            | 100.00       | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

<sup>a</sup> Geometry was fixed at the one optimised by M06-2X.