

Rigorous Treatment of Polytopal Rearrangements Reveal Surprising Complexity of Stereoisomerism Configuration Landscapes – Supplementary information

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Mathematica interactive tools for exploring the compactified S^2 AB₄ T-4 E-mode configuration space

Interactive Mathematica (v14.1) apps:

“any configuration in the AB₄ T-4 E-mode configuration space.nb”

“great circles in the AB₄ T-4 E-mode configuration space.nb”

Analytic expressions for the compactified S^2 AB₄ T-4 E-mode configuration space¹

Using the Cartesian coordinates of the seed polytope $\mathbf{c}_0$:

$$\mathbf{c}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & b \\ -a & 0 & b \\ 0 & a & -b \\ 0 & -a & -b \end{pmatrix}, \text{ where } a = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}, b = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$$

and the two components of the E-mode normal mode (as angle-changing linear vectors relative to $\mathbf{c}_0$):

$$\mathbf{q}_1 = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^1 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{q}_2 = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} -b & 0 & a \\ b & 0 & a \\ 0 & -b & -a \\ 0 & b & -a \end{pmatrix}$$

the analytic expressions for all A–B^{*i*} unit vectors ($\mathbf{b}_i$) comprising the AB₄ T-4 E-mode configuration space $\bar{\mathcal{C}}_{4E}$ are:

$$\bar{\mathcal{C}}_{4E} = \left(\begin{matrix} \mathbf{b}_1 \\ \mathbf{b}_2 \\ \mathbf{b}_3 \\ \mathbf{b}_4 \end{matrix} \right) = \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{ccc} \frac{\sqrt{2}\cos\theta - \sin\phi_1\sin\theta}{\sqrt{3}} & \cos\phi_1\sin\theta & \frac{\cos\theta + \sqrt{2}\sin\phi_1\sin\theta}{\sqrt{3}} \\ \frac{-\sqrt{2}\cos\theta + \sin\phi_1\sin\theta}{\sqrt{3}} & -\cos\phi_1\sin\theta & \frac{\cos\theta + \sqrt{2}\sin\phi_1\sin\theta}{\sqrt{3}} \\ \cos\phi_1\sin\theta & \frac{\sqrt{2}\cos\theta - \sin\phi_1\sin\theta}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{-\cos\theta + \sqrt{2}\sin\phi_1\sin\theta}{\sqrt{3}} \\ -\cos\phi_1\sin\theta & \frac{-\sqrt{2}\cos\theta + \sin\phi_1\sin\theta}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{-\cos\theta + \sqrt{2}\sin\phi_1\sin\theta}{\sqrt{3}} \end{array} \right) \middle| \theta \in [0, \pi), \phi \in [0, 2\pi) \right\}$$

Examples of polytope configurations and absolute configurations.

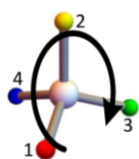
Tetrahedral tetracoordinate

Genus: $T-4$

Generic symmetry: T_d

Species: $T-4-R$

Specific symmetry: C_1



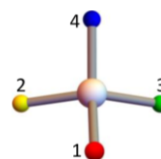
Tetragonally compressed tetrahedral tetracoordinate

Genus: $TCT-4$

Generic symmetry: D_{2d}

Species: $TCT-4-4-S$

Specific symmetry: C_1



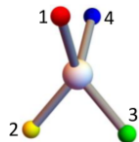
Tetragonally elongated tetrahedral tetracoordinate

Genus: $TET-4$

Generic symmetry: D_{2d}

Species: $TET-4-4-S$

Specific symmetry: C_1



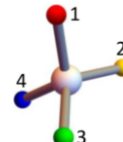
Twisted tetrahedral tetracoordinate

Genus: $TT-4$

Generic symmetry: D_2

Species: $TT-4-R$

Specific symmetry: C_1



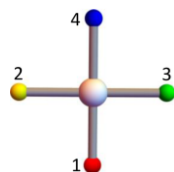
Square planar tetracoordinate

Genus: $SP-4$

Generic symmetry: D_{4h}

Species: $SP-4-4$

Specific symmetry: C_s



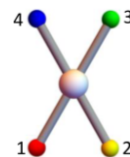
Gyfu planar tetracoordinate

Genus: $GYP-4$

Generic symmetry: D_{2h}

Species: $GYP-4-3-2$

Specific symmetry: C_s



Symmetric linear tetracoordinate

Genus: $SL-4$

Generic symmetry: $D_{\infty h}$

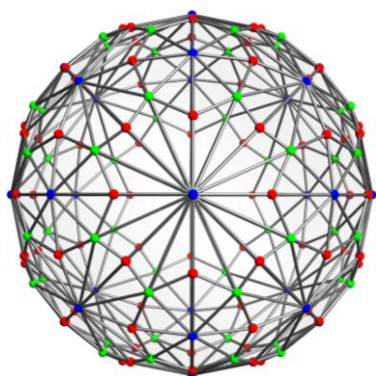
Species: $SL-4-2$

Specific symmetry: $C_{\infty v}$

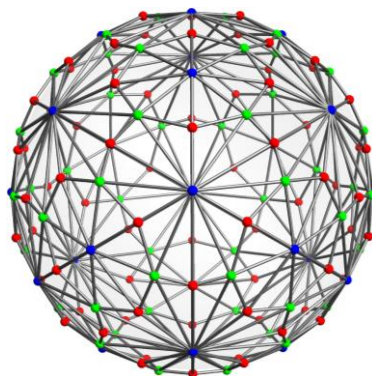


Graph symmetries of the compactified S^2 AB_4 $T-4$ E-mode configuration space

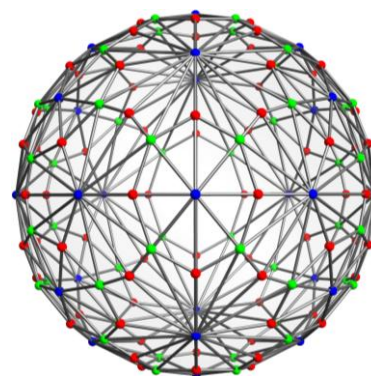
a) View centred on a $SL-4$ polytope graph vertex (1 of 6 graph C_4 axes)



b) View centred on a $T-4$ polytope graph vertex (1 of 8 graph C_3 axes)



c) View centred on a $SP-4$ polytope graph vertex (1 of 12 graph C_2 axes)



Blue vertices: $SL-4$, $T-4$, and $SP-4$ species; red vertices: $TCT-4$, $TET-4$, and $GYP-4$ species; green vertices: $TT-4$ species

Fig. S1 3D perspective renderings of the AB_4 $T-4$ E-mode undirected simple graph illustrating configuration space symmetries. a) View along a graph C_4 axis with $SL-4-2$ polytope graph vertex centred. b) View along a graph C_3 axis with $T-4$ polytope graph vertex centred. c) View along a graph C_2 axis with $SP-4$ polytope graph vertex centred.

Example great circle S^1 configuration subspaces of the full compactified S^2 AB₄ T -4 E-mode configuration space

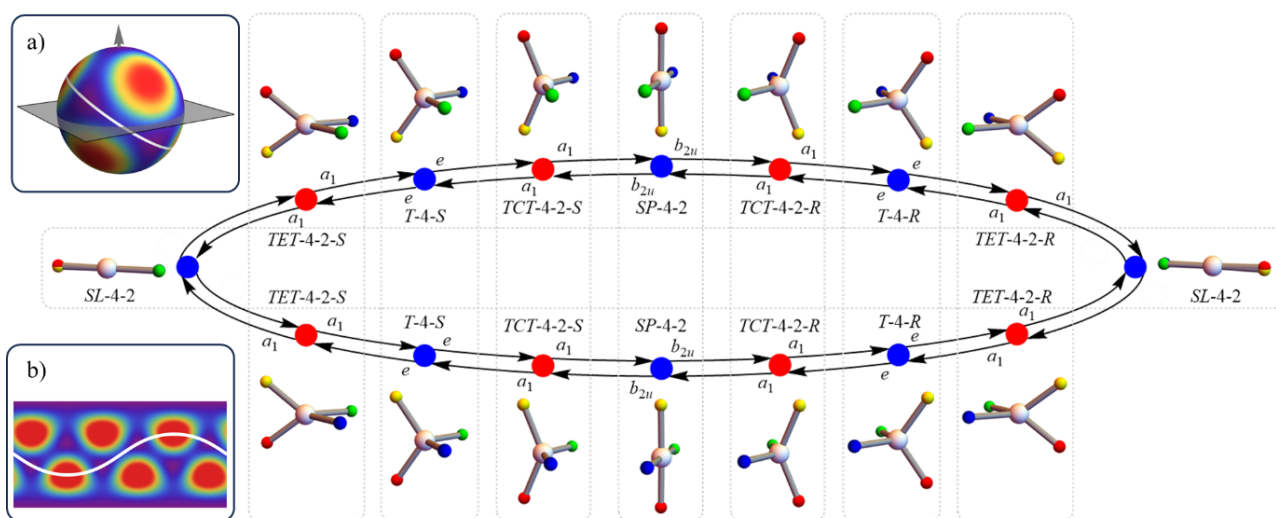


Fig. S2 (Equivalent to Figure 9 in the main text.) One-dimensional great circle polytopal rearrangement configuration-space ring and orientation permutation pseudorotations. Polytopal rearrangements arise from antisymmetric orthogonal paired bond-angle flexions of T -4 configurations. Pairs of orientation permutation are indicated in dotted grey enclosures. This trajectory corresponds to the white track shown in the full AB₄ T -4 E-mode space (inset a) and its equirectangular projection (inset b). B-atoms are distinctly coloured for tracking purposes.

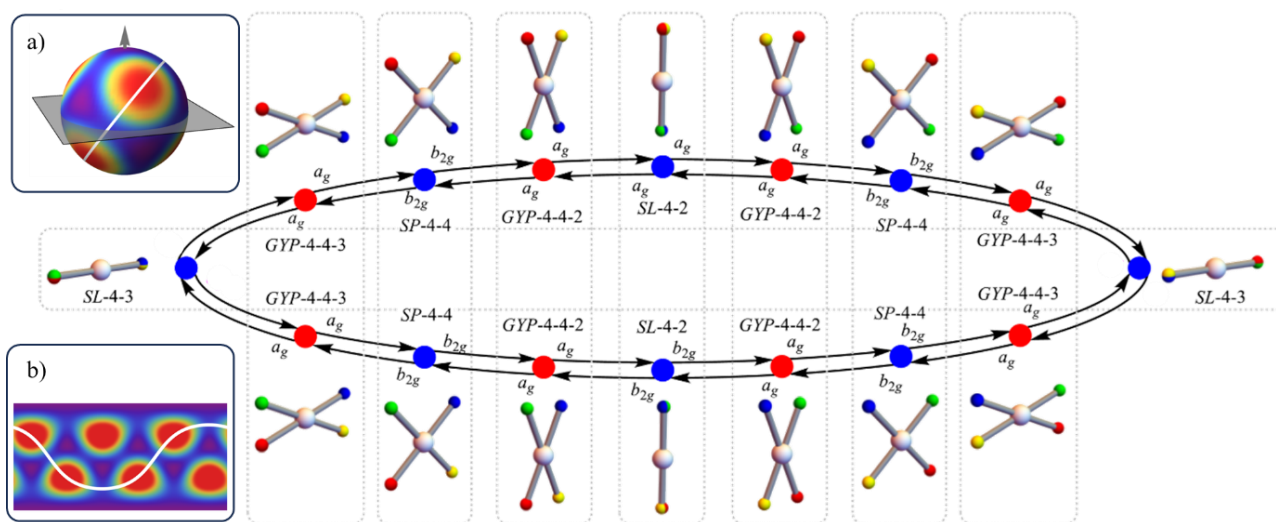


Fig. S3 One-dimensional great circle polytopal rearrangement configuration-space ring and orientation permutation pseudorotations arising from antisymmetric coplanar paired bond-angle flexions of the SP -4-4 configuration. The space is composed of pairs of orientation permuted SL -4-2 and SL -4-3 species, and four orientation permuted SP -4-4, GYP -4-4-2, and GYP -4-4-3 species (dotted grey enclosures). This trajectory corresponds to the white track shown in the full AB₄ T -4 E-mode space (inset a) and equirectangular projection (inset b). B-atoms are distinctly coloured for tracking purposes.

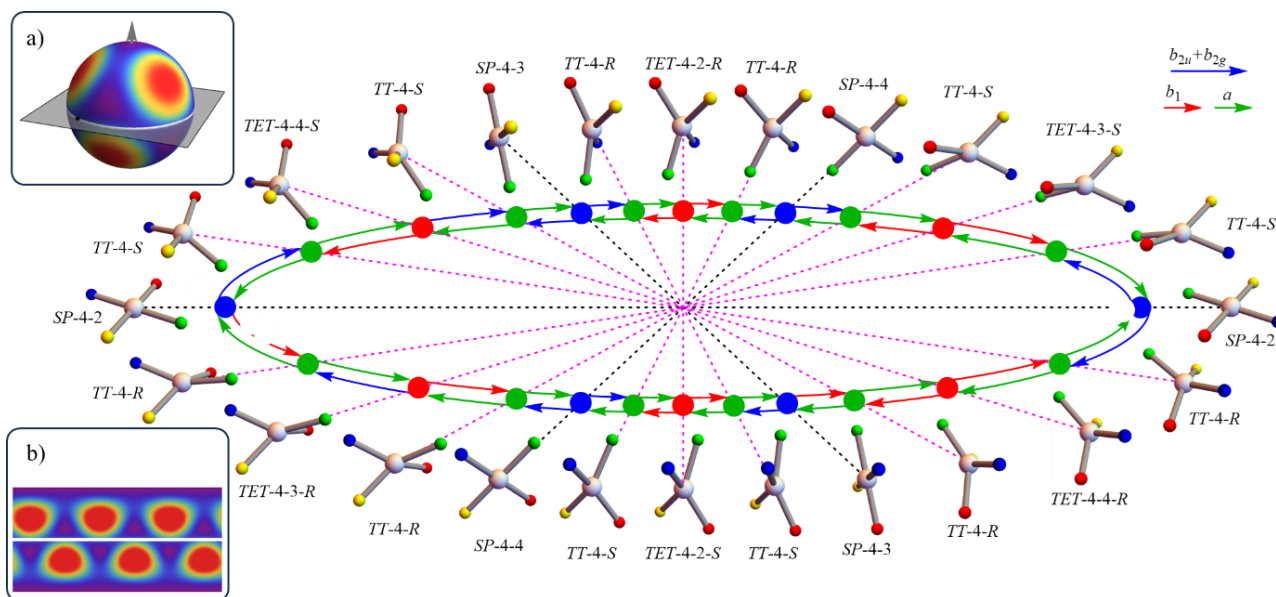


Fig. S3 One-dimensional great circle polytopal rearrangement configuration-space ring and orientation permutation pseudorotations corresponding to the white equatorial track shown in the full AB_4 $T-4$ E-mode space (inset a) and its equirectangular projection (inset b). Enantiomers are indicated by dashed magenta lines. Orientation permuted achiral pairs are indicated by the black dashed lines. Generic symmetries transforming action (directed graph edges) are colour coded and shown in the upper right corner. B-atoms are distinctly coloured for tracking purposes.

Method for potential energy surfaces

Qualitative PESs were generated using modest-level density-functional theory (DFT) calculations performed with Gaussian16² at the B3LYP-D3BJ level³⁻⁵ using the inbuilt 6-31G* basis set for H, F, Si, Cl, along with the SDD basis set and pseudopotential for I and Xe. For the bond-length restricted calculations, each A–B^{*i*} bond was set to that of a calculated local-minimum structure. Geometries involving chemically unrealistic close B^{*i*} – B^{*j*} distances were omitted from the calculations. For the bond-length relaxed calculations on tetrafluorides, initial bond lengths were set as either the local-minimum values or scaled to approximate dissociation as F₂ units. For the chiral silane example, all starting geometries used local-minimum bond length values. Some relaxed geometries in the vicinity of the “fusion” structures proved problematic so conventional *D*₂ symmetry constrained potential energy scans based upon the B¹–A–B² angle and the digonal twist angle (see below) were performed. The resulting fine-grained potential energy surface regions were then scaled, rotated, and fitted in place to amend the corresponding region of the configuration space.

Gaussian16² script for *D*₂-symmetry constrained potential energy surface scan

```
#P b3lyp/gen pseudo=read empiricaldispersion=gd3bj symm=(veryloose, follow) integral=ultrafinegrid opt=(z-matrix, maxstep=9)
scf=(save, intrep)
```

```
SL-4_region_scan
```

```
0 1
Xe
Bq 1 3.
F 1 bond 2 ang
F 1 bond 2 ang 3 lin
Bq 1 3. 2 ra 3 zero
Bq 1 3. 5 ra 2 -lin
F 1 bond 6 ang 5 twist
F 1 bond 6 ang 7 -lin
```

```
Variables:
```

```
bond 2.12
ang 40.
twist 90. S 9 -10.
```

```
Constants:
```

```
ra 90.
lin 180.
zero 0.
```

```
F 0
6-31g*
****
```

```
Xe 0
SDD
****
```

```
Xe 0
SDD
```

References

1. P. J. Canfield, M. J. Crossley, J. Spreer and S. Tillmann, *ChemRxiv*, 2025, DOI: 10.26434/chemrxiv-2025-gc7s6.
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