

Storage capacity of clathrate hydrates for storing small molecules

Suresh Kumar, Chivukula V. Sastri and Hemant Kumar Srivastava

Department of Chemistry, IIT Guwahati, India

Email: sureshkr@iitg.ernet.in, sastricv@iitg.ernet.in, hemants@iitg.ernet.in

Density functional theory (DFT) based studies are carried out to understand the structure, stability and reactivity of clathrate hydrates with or without hydrogen encapsulation. All geometries of clathrate hydrates were fully optimized using B3LYP/6-31G(d), M06-2X/6-31G(d) and B97D/6-31G(d) level of theories. The storage capability of five standard clathrate hydrates (5^{12} , $4^35^66^3$, $5^{12}6^2$, $5^{12}6^4$ and $5^{12}6^8$) is systematically explored to store small molecules like Ar, CH₄, CO₂, H₂, H₂S, Kr, N₂, O₂ and Xe. The capability is depicted in the given Figure. The efficacy of trapping of small molecules inside the cages of clathrate hydrates generally depends upon the cavity sizes and shapes. The interaction energy values indicate the formation of stable guest-host system.

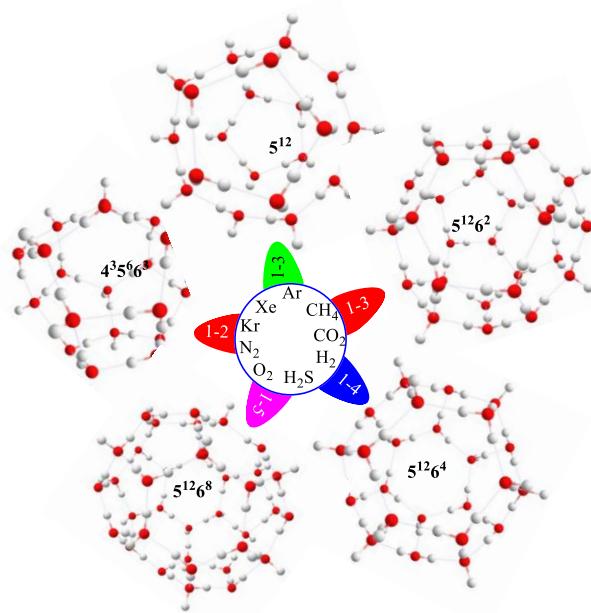


Figure: Capacity of five standard water cavities in the clathrate hydrates with various molecules

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