

Supramolecular Chemistry and Molecular Self-Assembly

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What is supramolecular chemistry?

Nobel prize in 1987: Lehn (Strasbourg), Perdersen (DuPont), Cram (UCLA)







"Chemistry of molecular assemblies and of the intermolecular bond" "The chemistry beyond the molecule"

Originally "Host-guest" chemistry Now it contains a lot of different self assemblies (self organization)





What is supramolecular chemistry?

Nobel prize in 2016: Sauvage (Strasbourg), Stoddart (Northwestern), Feringa (Croningen)







"Molecular Machines"



Outline

- 1. Thermodynamic and kinetic aspects
- 2. Calyxarenes, dendrimers and other examples
- 3. Supramolecular chemistry in diagnosis and therapeutic chemistry
- 4. Supramolecular chemistry in the environment
- 5. Discussion

What is Supramolecular Chemistry: Host-Guest Chemistry, Lehn's definition



Figure 1.1 Comparison between the scope of molecular and supramolecular chemistry according to Lehn.¹

Supramolecular Chemistry, Wiley, Steed and Atwood

Thermodynamic and Kinetic Aspects in Supramolecular Chemistry



Supramolecular assembly... Coordination complex?

Other forces? Which ones? Can we quantify them?

Hannon, M. J. Chem. Soc. Rev., 2007, 36, 280

The historical context (See DC lecture) The fun part

The thermodynamics (the numbers, equations...) The sad part?

Some Basics: Remember Solution Chemistry?

$$aA + bB = cC + dD$$

$$K_{eq} = \frac{(a_{C})^{c} . (a_{D})^{d}}{(a_{A})^{a} . (a_{B})^{b}} \quad \text{and} \quad a_{i} = \gamma_{i} [i] \qquad \qquad K'_{eq} = \frac{(\gamma_{C})^{c} . (\gamma_{D})^{d}}{(\gamma_{A})^{a} . (\gamma_{B})^{b}} \times \frac{[C]^{c} . [D]^{d}}{[A]^{a} . [B]^{b}}$$

 γ_i is the deviation to the ideality

$$\log \gamma \pm = -\left|z^{+}z^{-}\right| A \sqrt{I}$$
$$\gamma \pm = \left(\gamma_{+}^{p} - \gamma_{-}^{q}\right)^{\frac{1}{p+q}}$$
$$I = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i} z_{i}^{2} [i]$$

Experimentally, the ionic force and the temperature are fixed

The value of K_{eq} is given within this framework

The Binding Constant of a Ligand

This is defined by the equilibrium constant for the reaction shown bellow:

 $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{H}_{2}\mathbf{O})_{n}^{m+} + \mathbf{L} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{L}^{m+} + \mathbf{n}\mathbf{H}_{2}\mathbf{O}$ $K = \frac{\left[ML^{m+}\right]}{\left[M(H_{2}O)_{n}^{m+}\right] \cdot \left[L\right]}$

Guest	Host	Solvent	K_{11}/M^{-1}	$\Delta G^{\circ}/kJ \text{ mol}^{-1}$
Na ⁺	ClO ₄ -	H ₂ O	3.2	-3
Iodine	Hexamethylbenzene	CCl ₄	1.35	-0.8
Tetracyanoethylene	Hexamethylbenzene	CH ₂ Cl ₂	17	-7.1
7,7,8,8-Tetracyanoquinodimethane	Pyrene	CH ₂ Cl ₂	0.94	~0.0
Salicylic acid	Caffeine	H ₂ O	44	-9.7
Hydrocortisone	Benzoate ion	H ₂ O	2.9	-2.5
Methyl trans-cinnamate	Imidazole	H ₂ O	1.0	0.0
p-Hydroxybenzoic acid	α -Cyclodextrin	H ₂ O	1130	-17.6
Caffeine	Caffeine	H ₂ O	19	-7.1
Phenol	Dimethylformamide	C ₆ H ₆	442	-15.0
K ⁺	[18]crown-6	H ₂ O	100	-11.4
K ⁺	[18]crown-6	Methanol	106	-34.2
K ⁺	[2.2.2]cryptand	Methanol	1010	-57.0
Fe ³⁺	enterobactin	H ₂ O	1052	-296

The Binding Constant

If a sequential process involving the binding of more than one metal ion is involved, then two K can be measured for the complexes 1:1 and 2:1 complexes : K_{11} and K_{21}

$$M(H_2O)_n^{m+} + L = ML^{m+} + nH_2O \qquad (K_{11})$$

$$M(H_2O)_n^{m+} + ML^{m+} = M_2L^{(2m+)} + nH_2O \qquad (K_{21})$$

$$K_{21} = \frac{\left[M_2 L^{(2m)+}\right]}{\left[M(H_2 O)_n^{m+}\right] \cdot \left[M L^{m+}\right]}$$

At this stage, we define an overall binding constant β_{21}

$$\beta_{12} = K_{11} \times K_{21}$$
$$\beta_{xn} = \frac{\left[M_x L_n\right]}{\left[M\right]^x \left[L\right]^n}$$

The Global Constant

If we now consider the protonation constants... Example, the EDTA ligand, LH_4



$$LH_{4} = LH_{3}^{-} + H^{+} \qquad (K_{a4})$$

$$LH_{3}^{-} = LH_{2}^{2-} + H^{+} \qquad (K_{a3})$$

$$LH_{2}^{2-} = LH^{3-} + H^{+} \qquad (K_{a2})$$

$$LH^{3-} = L^{4-} + H^{+} \qquad (K_{a1})$$

 $pK_a = -logK_a$: 2.0, 2.7, 6.1 and 10.2

And its complex of Ca²⁺

$$Ca^{2+} + L^{4-} = CaL^{2-}$$
 (K₁₁)
 $CaLH^{-} = CaL^{2-} + H^{+}$ (K_a^{CaL})

$$pK_{a}^{CaL} = 3.2$$

We need to define the global constant taking all these single reactions in consideration

The Global Constant

The	Global C	Constant			HOOC	СООН
	xCa ²⁺	+ yL ⁴⁻ +	- zH ⁺ =	$Ca_{x}L_{y}H_{z}$	HOOC	СООН
β ₀₁₁	0	1	1	LH	$\log \beta_{011} = pk_{a1}$	
β ₀₁₂	0	1	2	LH ₂	$\log \beta_{110} = K$	
β ₀₁₃	0	1	3	LH ₃	$\log \beta_{111} = pk_a^{Cal}$	_
β ₀₁₄	0	1	4	LH_4	$\beta_{111} = \beta_{110} \cdot \frac{1}{\kappa^{CaL}}$	
β ₁₁₀	1	1	0	CaL	$pK_a^{CaL} = \log \beta_{111}$	$-\log \beta_{110}$
β ₁₁₁	1	1	1	CaLH		
β ₀₀₋₁	0	0	-1	OH-	$\mathbf{H}_{2}\mathbf{O} = \mathbf{O}\mathbf{H}^{-} + \mathbf{H}^{+}$	pk _e =13.78
β_{10-1}	1	0	-1	Ca(OH)		
β ₁₁₋₁	1	1	-1	CaL(OH)	 Hydroxos formation 	

 β_{10-1} is the deprotonation of one water molecule attached to the metal center: acidity of the cation

 β_{11-1} is the hydrolysis of the complex



- Potentiometric titration





- Determining all the successive pKa of the ligand: Use of a software *(HYPERQUAD)*





Fig. 3. Normalized titration curves (pH vs. $n(OH^-)/n(tpatcn^{3-}))$ for $H_3tpatcn$ (0.75 mM) and [Tb(tpatcn)] solns. (H₃tpatcn = 0.38 mM, Tb = 0.38 mM)

$$Tb^{3+} + tpatcn^{3-} \Leftrightarrow [Tb(tpatcn)] \quad \log K_{TbL} = 17.4(4)$$

Nocton et al. Helvetica Chem. Acta, 2009, 92, 2257

Precise measurements but very long ... one needs a couple of weeks to get the data With very high β value, one need to perform competitive titrations

m=i n=j $\delta_{mn}\beta_{mn}m[G]^m[H]^n$ $\delta_{_{calc}}$ · $\lceil G \rceil$ (a) 100 Free m=1 n=090 Host 6.95 ·80 % formation relative to Host 70 Chemical shift 1:2 60 6.85 50 40 Again a computer program 30 6.75 helps fitting the data to give 20 1:1 β_{11} and β_{12} . 10 6.65 0 0.004 0.012 0.000 0.008 [Guest] (b) Fast exchange Slow exchange Guest concentration $\delta(\text{ppm})$ $\delta(ppm)$ Nucleus insensitive to complexation Sensitive nucleus Analogous nucleus

in complex

Figure 1.4 (a) NMR titration plot (isotherm) and corresponding speciation plots for a system undergoing fast equilibration on the NMR time scale, with log $\beta_{11} = 2.3$ and log $\beta_{12} = 4.5$. (b) Schematic NMR spectra of slowly equilibrating mixtures of free host, guest and host–guest complex.

on free ligand

- NMR titration

- Method of continuous variation (Job plots)

Monitoring the variation of concentration of the hostguest complex in these samples allows a plot of [Complex] vs. [Host]/([Host] + [Guest]) to be constructed

[Complex] $\alpha \Delta \delta X$ mole fraction of host

- Fluorescence titration

$$F = k_G [G] + k_{11} [HG] \qquad F_0 = k_G^0 [G]_{total}$$
$$\frac{F}{F_0} = \frac{k_G / k_G^0 + (k_{11} / k_G^0) K_{11} [H]}{1 + K_{11} [H]}$$



Job plot of a 1:1 complex

Städe, L. W. et al. Beilstein J. Org. Chem. 2015, 11, 514







concentration of 13 constant, in a solution of 10% DMSO in CHCl3 at 298 K.

Leigh, D. A. et al., Nature Chemistry, 2011, 3, 244

- Calorimetric titration (Isothermal titration calorimetry ITC)

Evaluation of the heat (enthalpy) evolved from a carefully insulated sample as a function of added guest or host concentration



Figure 1.7 ITC data at 25 °C for the binding of NBu₄+Cl⁻ by **1.9** in nitromethane – the top plot represents the raw data with the calorimetric response in μ cal s⁻¹ for each addition of NBu₄+Cl⁻ while the lower plot is the titration isotherm fitted to a 1:1 model with kcal per mol NBu₄+Cl⁻ added *vs.* mole ratio of NBu₄+Cl⁻ to **1.9**. (Reproduced with permission from [8] © 2006, American Chemical Society).

- Extraction experiments

The distribution (or partition) coefficient, K_d , of a metal cation between an aqueous (aq.) and organic phase (org.) may also allow determination of constants. On need to measure the extraction coefficient and the distribution coefficient.

Enthalpy and Entropy Contributions

- Solvent effect: removing a solvent molecule
 - $\Delta H^{\circ} > 0$ not favorable
 - $-\Delta S^{\circ} > 0$ favorable

Note that $\Delta H^{\circ}_{water} >> 0$ because water is highly ordered It is less in other solvents (pyridine, dmso, CH₃CN)

The ligand plays a role in its ability to give electron (donating ability) If the donating ability is large, **the enthalpy is larger**

- Ligand rearrangement (see macrocyclic effect)
 - $\Delta H^{\circ} > 0 \quad not favorable$
 - $\Delta S^{\circ} < 0$ not favorable
- Association
 - $\Delta H^{\circ} < 0$ favorable
 - $\Delta S^{\circ} < 0$ not favorable

$$M^{n+}(S) + L(S) \xrightarrow{\Delta S^{\circ}} M^{n+} + L + xS \longrightarrow M^{n+} + {}^{\cdot}L'' \xrightarrow{\Delta H^{\circ}} ML(S)$$

When two or more biding sites (A and B) on a host cooperate so that the interaction of a whole system is synergetically greater than the sum of the parts, we talk about cooperativity. We should consider positive but also negative effects.

$$\Delta G_{AB}^{0} = \Delta G_{A}^{i} + \Delta G_{B}^{i} + \Delta G^{S}$$
$$\Delta G_{A}^{i} = \Delta G_{AB}^{0} - \Delta G_{B}^{0}$$
$$\Delta G^{S} = \Delta G_{A}^{0} + \Delta G_{B}^{0} - \Delta G_{AB}^{0}$$

Chelate effect



Entropic effect

Statistical effect and kinetic effect (the binding of the second D is accelerated and a higher local concentration favor the binding because of local concentration)

Chelate effect and flexibility

Chelate effect is highly dependent of the size of chelate ring



Figure 1.8 Ring size dependence of the stabilisation offered by the chelate effect.

It is related to the statistical likelihood to have donor pointing at the metal



Podant ligands: examples of positive cooperativity

tpa

tren

Cooperativity in cases where the binding of a first guest influences the affinity of a host for a second guest a a remote site is termed *allosteric effect*



Allosteric enhancement of Na⁺ binding by preorganization of the polyether binding site by Ru(II) and *vice versa*.

Rebek, J. Acc. Chem. Rev, 1984, 17, 258

Cooperativity may be recognized by the deviation from well-defined statistical relationship

 (\mathbf{K}_1)

(K₂)

 (\mathbf{K}_{i})

 $(\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{m}})$

For M metal with m binding sites

$$M + L = ML$$
$$ML + L = ML_2$$
$$ML_{i-1} + L = ML_i$$
$$ML_{m-1} + L = ML_m$$

$$K_{i} = K_{int}(m - i + 1) / i$$
$$\frac{K_{i+1}}{K_{i}} = \frac{i(m - i)}{(i+1)(m - i + 1)}$$

r is the occupancy: average number of occupied binding site on M (bond site / total sites)

Measure of cooperativity

 $r = \frac{mK_{\text{int}}[L]}{1 + K_{\text{int}}[L]}$ If non-cooperative system

Scatchard and Hill equations

$$\frac{r}{[L]} = -K_{int}r + mK_{int}$$
$$\log\left(\frac{r}{m-r}\right) = \log[L] + \log K_{int}$$

Scatchard and Hill equations

In (#(6-1))

-4

-6

-8

Only valid for intramolecular processes



Figure 1.10 (a) Hill plot and (b) Scatchard plot for the successive intermolecular connections of ammonia to bivalent nickel to give $[Ni(NH_3)_i]^{2+}$, the concentration of the free ligand [L] is computed by using the known stability constants. $[Ni]_{total} = 1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}; [NH_3]_{total}$ varies between 10^{-5} and 1 M. (Reproduced from [12] by permission of the Royal Society of Chemistry).

Preorganization and Complementarity

Macrocyclic effect

Organization of the biding sites prior to guest binding: *preorganization*



Figure 1.11 The chelate, macrocyclic and macrobicyclic effects.

The corollary of preorganization is in the guest binding kinetics. Rigidly preorganized host may have significant difficulties in passing trough a complexation transition state.

Preorganization and Complementarity

Macrocyclic effect: complementarity

In order to bind, a host must have binding sites that are of the correct electronic character (polarity, hydrogen bond/donor acceptor ability, hardness or softness)



Figure 1.12 Comparison of the effects of preorganisation and complementarity on the magnitudes of the binding constant of polyether hosts for alkali metal cations. The figure for Li^+ is given for the highly preorganised spherand-6 since it is too small to accommodate K^+ .

"To complex, host must have binding sites which cooperatively contact and attract binding sites of guest without generating strong nonbonded repulsion"

H + G
$$\xrightarrow{k+}$$
 HG $K_{11} = \frac{k_+}{k}$

$$\frac{d[HG]}{dt} = k_{+}[H][G] - k - [HG]$$

If concentration of host is in excess over the concentration of guest

$$k_{obs} = k_{+} [H] + k -$$

For a 1:1 complex



Fig. 3 Considerations for the experimental design based on thermodynamic and kinetic studies. The amplitude of the kinetic studies at increasing concentrations of host (from the bottom to top in the right hand graph) has to fall onto the binding isotherm determined in thermodynamic studies (dots in left hand graph). The techniques for kinetic studies are:^{7,8} timeresolved fluorescence (FLU), ultrasonic relaxation (USR), laser flash photolysis (LFP), laser temperature jump (LTJ) and stopped-flow (SF).

Bohne, C. Chem. Soc. Rev, 2014, 43, 4037



Fig. 3 Selectivity $\Delta \log K$ with calixarene-crown ether complexes $(X = CH_2CH_2(OCH_2CH_2)_n n = 3 \text{ or } 4, R = Me, Et, n-C_3H_7, i-C_3H_7 \text{ or } CH_2C_6H_5)$, for K⁺ vs. Na⁺ (squares), for K⁺ vs. Cs⁺ (triangles), and for K⁺ vs. Rb⁺ (circles); experimental data from ref. 12.

Schneider H., Chem. Soc. Rev, 2007, 37, 263



Mean lifetimes of a single water molecule in the first coordination sphere of a given metal ion, τH_2O , and the corresponding water exchange rate constant kH₂O.

Helm, L. J. Chem. Soc. Dalton Trans, 2002, 633

Crystal field activation energies

Dissociative, associative and interchange mechanism





Table 3.7 Crystal field activation energies (in Dq) for dissociation mechanism Octahedral \rightarrow square pyramid

	Strong Fields			Weak Fields		
System	Octa- hedral	Square Pyramid	C.F.A.E.	Octa- hedral	Square Pyramid	C.F.A.E
d°	0	0	0	0	0	0
d^1	4	4.57	-0.57	4	4.57	-0.57
d²	8	9.14	-1.14	8	9.14	-1.14
d³	12	10.00	2.00	12	10.00	2 00
d1	16	14.57	1.43	6	9.14	-3.14
ds	20	19.14	0.86	0	0	0
de	24	20.00	4.00	4	4.57	-0.57
d'	18	19.14	-1.14	8	9.14	-1.14
dª	12	10.00	2.00	12	10.00	2.00
do	6	9.14	-3.14	6	914	-3.14
dio	0	0	0	õ	0	0

Table 3.8	Crystal field activation energies (in Da) for displacement mechanism
	Octahedral - pentagonal bipyramid

	Strong Fields			Weak Fields		
System	Octa- hedral	Pentagonal Bipyramid	C.F.A.E.	Octa- hedral	Pentagonal Bipyramid	C.F.A.E
ď°	0	0	0	0	0	0
d1 '	4	5.28	-1.28	4	5.78	-1.28
d^2	8	10.56	-2.56	8	10.56	-2.56
d^3	12	7.74	4.26	12	7 74	4.26
d4	16	13.02	2.98	5	4 93	1.07
ds	20	18.30	1.70	c	0	0
de	24	15.48	8.52	4	5.28	-1.28
d'	18	12.65	5.34	. 8	10.56	-2.56
d's	12	7.74	4.26	12	7 74	4.26
d'	6	4.93	1.07	6	4 93	1.07
d10	0	0	0	õ	0	0

- Ion – Ion interactions, bond energy 20-75 kcal.mol⁻¹





 $(b) Fe(CN)_6^{3+}$

- Ion – Dipole interactions Bond energy 12-50 kcal.mol⁻¹

Garratt, P. J. Tetrahedron, 1998, 54, 949

Interaction with a polar molecule





 Dipole – Dipole interactions, Bond energy: 5 kcal.mol⁻¹







Figure 1.14 Dipole-dipole interactions in carbonyls.



Nocton G., et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2008, 130, 16633

- Ion - Induced dipole







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- London forces



Instantaneous dipole in an atom



A dipole induced by an instantaneous dipole of the neighbouring atom



London forces between two Helium atoms



- Clockmann Equation

Interaction between A and D

$$\Delta E = \frac{-q_D q_A}{\varepsilon r} + 2 \frac{\left(C_D C_A \beta\right)^2}{E_D - E_A} + \Delta E_{sol}$$

 C_A and C_D is orbital overlap E_A and E_D in energy of frontiers orbitals β is the how much overlap at transition state If E_D - E_A is big: hard – hard interactions

$$\Delta E \approx \frac{-q_D q_A}{\varepsilon r}$$

Attractive forces

If E_D - E_A is small: soft – soft interactions

$$\Delta E \approx 2 \frac{\left(C_D C_A \beta\right)^2}{E_D - E_A}$$





Figure 1.15 X-ray crystal structure showing C—H…N (2.21Å) and C—H…O (2.41Å, average) hydrogen bonding in a complex of crown ether **1.22** with nitromethane.¹⁷



Hannon, M. J. Chem. Soc. Rev., 2007, 36, 280

Hydrogen bond network in cyanuric acid-maleimine crystal

	Strong	Moderate	Weak
A-HB interaction	Mainly covalent	Mainly electrostatic	Electrostatic
Bond energy (kJ mol ⁻¹)	60-120	16-60	<12
Bond lengths (Å)			
Н…В	1.2-1.5	1.5-2.2	2.2-3.2
A … B	2.2-2.5	2.5-3.2	3.2-4.0
Bond angles (°)	175-180	130-180	90-150
Relative IR vibration shift (stretching symmetrical mode, cm ⁻¹)	25%	10-25%	<10%
¹ H NMR chemical shift downfield (ppm)	14-22	<14	?
Examples	Gas phase dimers with strong acids/bases	Acids	Minor components of bifurcated bonds
	Proton sponge	Alcohols	C-H hydrogen bonds
	HF complexes	Biological molecules	O—H····π hydrogen bonds

- Hydrogen bonding:

- Cation $-\pi$ interactions







Combined Cation– π and Anion– π Interactions for Zwitterion Recognition

Perraud, O. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2011, 51, 504







Figure 1.20 (a) Limiting types of π - π interaction. Note the offset to the face-to-face mode (direct overlap is repulsive). (b) X-ray crystal structure of benzene showing herringbone motif arising from edge-to-face interactions.



Figure 1.21 Interacting π -quadrupoles.

- π - π interactions





T-shaped



Sandwich

Parallel-displaced



Morita, Y. Nature Chem., 2011, 3, 197

- Van der Waals Forces and Crystal Close Packing



Figure 1.23 X-ray crystal structure of a typical van der Waals inclusion complex *p-tert*-butylcalix[4] arene·toluene.²⁴

- Close Shell Interactions, comparable in strength that moderate hydrogen bond

Pyykkö, P. Chem. Rev., 1997, 97, 597



Halogen bonding

Donor Acceptor

R-X----:B



Taylor, M. S. Nature Chem., 2014, 6, 1029

General depiction of a halogen bonding interaction (top), the structure of a bis(iodotriazole) halogen-bond donor (middle), and an electrostatic potential map (bottom) showing the ' σ -hole' (blue region of partial positive potential) on each iodine atom.

Secondary bonding (Alcock 1972)



Solvatation and Hydrophobic Effects

- Hydrophobic effects

Hydrophobic effects arise from the exclusion of non-polar groups or molecules from aqueous solution. This situation is more energetically favorable because water molecules interact with themselves or with other polar groups or molecules preferentially



Figure 1.26 Hydrophobic binding of organic guests in aqueous solution.

Solvatation and Hydrophobic Effects

- Solvation effects



Figure 1.27 Solvation considerations during the host-guest complexation of a metal cation.

Conclusion: add all these effects.... and you have a nice supramolecular system



Hannon, M. J. Chem. Soc. Rev., 2007, 36, 280