

Inverse hydrogen bonds between XeH₂ and hydride and fluoride derivatives of Li, Be, Na and Mg

Fernando Blanco · Mohammad Solimannejad ·
Ibon Alkorta · Jose Elguero

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Abstract A theoretical study of the inverse hydrogen bonds complexes formed by the XeH₂ molecule and hydride and fluoride derivatives of Li, Be, Na and Mg has been carried out by means of DFT (B3LYP/DGDZVP) and ab initio [MP2/DGDZVP and MP2/LJ18/6-311++G(2d,2p)] calculations. The complexes obtained present interaction energies up to −81 kJ/mol. The analysis of the electron density shows electron transfer from the XeH₂ to the electron acceptor molecules. The calculated absolute chemical shieldings show the high sensitivity of the xenon atom upon complexation.

Keywords Inverse hydrogen bonds · XeH₂ · Metal hydride

1 Introduction

Classical hydrogen bonds (HB) are formed between two electronegative atoms with a hydrogen atom bonded to one of them. In the last years, an important number of new chemical

groups have been added to those suitable to form HB [1,2]. One of the most interesting cases corresponds to those HB where the interaction is between two hydrogens, one hydric with partial negative charge and another protic with positive charge [3–12]. This special case of HB has been named dihydrogen bond (DHB) [13].

In a subsequent evolution of the possible interactions, it has been proposed to substitute in the DHB complex, the protic hydrogen by a more general electropositive moiety yielding what has been named an inverse hydrogen bond (IHB) or hydride bond [14–16].

Among the rare gas isolated derivatives, XeH₂ has been detected in the photolysis of hydrogen halides or in the electron irradiation of benzene, in both cases, in solid Xe [17–21]. Several theoretical works have been devoted to this compound due to its interesting properties as electron donor in DHB interactions [22–25].

In this article, we have studied the possible IHB formed between XeH₂ and the monomeric and dimeric hydride and fluoride derivatives of Li, Na, Be and Mg. The systems have been optimized with a full electron basis set and an effective core potential for the xenon atom using DFT (B3LYP), and MP2 computational methods. The electronic properties of the complexes have been analyzed by means of the atoms in molecules (AIM) methodology and the chemical shielding of the systems has been calculated to evaluate the effect of the complexation.

2 Methods

The geometry of the systems has been fully optimized with the full electron basis set, DGDZVP [26], at the B3LYP [27,28] and MP2 [29] computational levels. In addition, for xenon the relativistic effective core potential (ECP) by

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F. Blanco · I. Alkorta (✉) · J. Elguero
Instituto de Química Médica (CSIC),
Juan de la Cierva, 3, 28006 Madrid, Spain
e-mail: ibon@iqm.csic.es

M. Solimannejad
Quantum Chemistry Group, Department of Chemistry,
Arak University, 38156-879 Arak, Iran

M. Solimannejad (✉)
Centre for Theoretical and Computational Chemistry,
Department of Chemistry, University of Oslo,
P.O. Box 1033, Blindern, 0315 Oslo, Norway
e-mail: mohammad.solimannejad@kjemi.uio.no;
m-solimannejad@araku.ac.ir

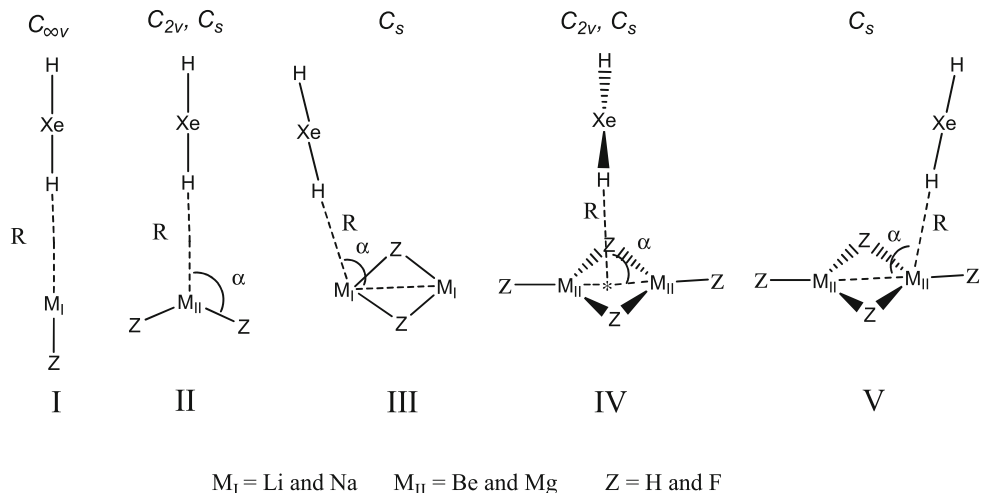


Fig. 1 Schematic representation of the minima configurations. The symmetries found for each motif are indicated. The R and α parameters have been tabulated in Table 2

LaJohn et al. [30] and the standard 6-311++G(2d,2p)[31] for the rest of the atoms at the MP2 level have been used. In all cases, frequency calculations have been carried out to evaluate if the structures obtained correspond to an energetic minima or not. All these calculations have been carried out within the Gaussian-03 package [32].

The interaction energy has been corrected from the inherent basis set superposition error (BSSE) using the full counterpoise method [33].

The electron density of the complexes has been analyzed using the AIM methodology [34] and the PROAIMV [35] and MORPHY98 programs [36]. The evaluation of the atomic properties has been carried out by integration within the atomic basins. Default parameters have been used for the integration except in those cases where the absolute value of the integrated Laplacian was larger than 0.001, where more strict conditions have been used [37].

The absolute chemical shieldings have been evaluated with the GIAO method [38,39] at the B3LYP/DGDZVP computational level, since previous results have provided good linear correlations between experimental and calculated results [25].

3 Results and discussions

The xenon dihydride, XeH_2 , is a linear centrosymmetric molecule which presents a negative region of the electrostatic potential close to the hydrogen atoms along the symmetric axis of the molecule [25]. Thus, it is expected that the interaction of the hydrogen atoms of XeH_2 with electron deficient atoms should provide stable complexes. The systems chosen to interact with XeH_2 are hydride and fluoride derivatives of lithium, sodium, beryllium and magnesium in their monomeric and dimeric forms.

Considering the simplicity and high symmetry of the interacting molecules, a large number of different configurations have been found as energetic minima (Fig. 1). The reduction of the maximum symmetry expected for some of the complexes is an indication of the presence of secondary interactions.

The energetic results have been gathered in Table 1. In general, similar results are obtained for the three computational methods considered, especially between the B3LYP/DGDZVP and the MP2/DGDZVP one, being the interaction energy obtained with the latter methods always slightly larger than with the former. The most important difference was observed in the complexes between XeH_2 and Be_2Z_4 ($Z = \text{H}$ and F). While the calculations with the DGDZVP basis set predict that the fluorinated complex is more stable, the opposite is obtained for the MP2/LJ18. Another interesting feature is the higher symmetry in some of the B3LYP calculations versus the ones obtained at MP2 level with the two basis sets. This could indicate the inability of the B3LYP method to properly consider weak interactions, as has already been described in the literature [40–42].

The interaction energies range between -18.9 and -81.1 kJ/mol indicating the high stability of the complexes formed. A systematic trend observed in those systems is the increment of the interaction energy when the hydrogen atoms of the electron acceptor molecule are replaced by fluorine, except in the cases previously mentioned at the MP2/LJ18 level.

The interaction energies obtained for these complexes are stronger than those obtained for the $\text{XeH}_2:\text{H}_2\text{O}$ complex [22], -10.6 kJ/mol, and other neutral $\text{XeH}_2:\text{HX}$ dihydrogen bonded complexes [25]. Only in the case of charged dihydrogen bonded complexes as $\text{XeH}_2:\text{HCNLi}^+$ and $\text{XeH}_2:\text{HCNNa}^+$ interaction energies (-44.1 and -36.6 kJ/mol, respectively) in the range of those described here have been found [25].

Table 1 Symmetry group, PG, and corrected interaction energy (kJ/mol) for the minima found at the different computational levels considered

	Type	B3LYP/DGDZVP		MP2/DGDZVP		MP2/LJ18	
		PG	Ei + BSSE	PG	Ei + BSSE	PG	Ei + BSSE
LiH	I	$C_{\infty v}$	-43.55	$C_{\infty v}$	-40.41	$C_{\infty v}$	-44.13
LiF	I	$C_{\infty v}$	-47.29	$C_{\infty v}$	-44.32	$C_{\infty v}$	-43.67
NaH	I	$C_{\infty v}$	-30.48	$C_{\infty v}$	-26.59	$C_{\infty v}$	-28.03
NaF	I	$C_{\infty v}$	-36.34	$C_{\infty v}$	-31.90	$C_{\infty v}$	-31.82
BeH ₂	II	C_s	-25.43	C_s	-18.88	C_s	-39.95
BeF ₂	II	C_s	-53.74	C_s	-52.01	C_s	-47.83
MgH ₂	II	C_{2v}	-29.99	C_s	-26.37	C_s	-36.89
MgF ₂	II	C_s	-65.58	C_s	-63.38	C_s	-68.15
Li ₂ H ₂	III	C_s	-30.97	C_s	-30.71	C_s	-33.99
Li ₂ F ₂	III	C_s	-33.73	C_s	-32.86	C_s	-33.56
Na ₂ H ₂	III	C_s	-23.09	C_s	-22.03	C_s	-26.19
Na ₂ F ₂	III	C_s	-29.93	C_s	-27.25	C_s	-29.47
Be ₂ H ₄	IV	C_{2v}	-49.48	C_s	-47.20	C_s	-81.13
Be ₂ F ₄	V	C_s	-69.16	C_s	-74.95	C_s	-60.20
Mg ₂ H ₄	IV	C_{2v}	-35.93	C_{2v}	-35.73	C_s	-44.41
Mg ₂ F ₄	IV	–	–	C_s	-44.02	C_s	-49.07
Mg ₂ F ₄	V	C_s	-66.69	C_s	-66.87	C_s	-71.23

Table 2 Geometrical properties (Å, °) of the complexes obtained (R and α are defined in the Fig. 1)

	Type	B3LYP/DGDZVP		MP2/DGDZVP		MP2/LJ18	
		R	α	R	α	R	α
LiH	I	1.926	180.0	1.931	180.0	1.866	180.0
LiF	I	1.918	180.0	1.921	180.0	1.869	180.0
NaH	I	2.240	180.0	2.280	180.0	2.295	180.0
NaF	I	2.222	180.0	2.253	180.0	2.257	180.0
BeH ₂	II	1.734	102.2	1.747	102.9	1.565	108.3
BeF ₂	II	1.639	103.6	1.594	105.1	1.543	107.6
MgH ₂	II	2.058	101.5	2.090	97.1	2.027	97.3
MgF ₂	II	1.935	92.7	1.925	93.1	1.908	94.3
Li ₂ H ₂	III	1.957	155.0	1.953	153.3	1.904	156.5
Li ₂ F ₂	III	1.968	147.8	1.959	148.9	1.923	152.0
Na ₂ H ₂	III	2.291	143.6	2.308	141.7	2.313	141.3
Na ₂ F ₂	III	2.268	135.2	2.307	133.7	2.320	133.5
Be ₂ H ₄	IV	1.511	90.0	1.452	90.0	1.314	89.9
Be ₂ F ₄	V	1.600	114.2	1.554	117.4	1.520	114.3
Mg ₂ H ₄	IV	1.829	90.0	1.782	90.0	1.749	89.5
Mg ₂ F ₄	IV	–	–	1.686	88.6	1.708	88.1
Mg ₂ F ₄	V	1.936	116.9	1.923	117.6	1.908	118.0

Some of the geometrical characteristics of the complexes have been gathered in Table 2. In the complexes formed between the XeH₂ molecule with the hydride and fluoride monomers, shorter distances are observed for the fluoride complexes than for the corresponding hydride ones. In the case of the complexes with the dimeric units, the tendency is not so clear. The comparison of the distances obtained for

the three computational methods presents linear relationship among them with high correlation coefficients (R^2 larger than 0.98). The distances obtained between the interacting hydrogen and the metallic atoms can be as short as 1.31 Å in the complex with Be₂H₄. The complex formation results in an elongation of the XeH bond involved in the interaction while the other XeH bond shortens, up to 0.1 Å in both cases.

Table 3 Dipole moment enhancement (Debye) and charge transfer (e) from the XeH₂ molecule to the metallic moiety at the B3LYP/DGDZVP computational level

Complexes with	Complex type	Dipole moment enhancement	Charge transfer Mulliken	Charge transfer NBO	Charge transfer AIM
LiH	I	3.79	0.427	0.046	-0.007
LiF	I	4.15	0.444	0.031	0.023
NaH	I	2.93	0.101	0.020	-0.009
NaF	I	3.68	0.133	0.020	0.036
BeH ₂	II	4.87	0.358	0.007	-0.018
BeF ₂	II	7.94	0.511	0.078	0.036
MgH ₂	II	5.45	0.139	0.018	0.001
MgF ₂	II	7.90	0.527	0.061	0.073
Li ₂ H ₂	III	3.28	0.400	0.051	0.004
Li ₂ F ₂	III	2.97	0.401	0.031	0.019
Na ₂ H ₂	III	2.57	0.115	0.036	0.013
Na ₂ F ₂	III	2.49	0.122	0.022	0.030
Be ₂ H ₄	IV	5.84	0.468	0.005	0.040
Be ₂ F ₄	V	9.45	0.564	0.105	0.046
Mg ₂ H ₄	IV	4.67	0.182	0.010	0.012
Mg ₂ F ₄	V	8.22	0.534	0.065	0.076

Table 4 Properties at the hydrogen–metal bcp (a.u.) and integrated volume (au) at the B3LYP/DGDZVP computational level

Complexes with	Complex type	Rho	Lap	H	Δ volume of XeH ₂	Δ volume total
LiH	I	0.013	0.070	0.0035	6.2	5.9
LiF	I	0.013	0.071	0.0036	1.1	5.7
NaH	I	0.014	0.046	0.0004	3.7	2.1
NaF	I	0.014	0.050	0.0007	-2.9	0.3
BeH ₂	II	0.026	0.098	-0.0028	-20.9	-38.9
BeF ₂	II	0.031	0.159	-0.0002	-31.6	-52.3
MgH ₂	II	0.020	0.064	-0.0005	-8.9	-23.6
MgF ₂	II	0.027	0.094	-0.0011	-21.1	-31.6
Li ₂ H ₂	III	0.012	0.065	0.0033	2.3	1.5
Li ₂ F ₂	III	0.012	0.065	0.0034	-6.6	-9.7
Na ₂ H ₂	III	0.012	0.043	0.0008	0.7	0.5
Na ₂ F ₂	III	0.013	0.047	0.0009	-8.8	-12.2
Be ₂ H ₄	IV	0.039	0.014	-0.0127	-41.8	-59.7
Be ₂ F ₄	V	0.035	0.188	0.0006	-38.9	-62.6
Mg ₂ H ₄	IV	0.017	0.017	-0.0022	-17.0	-36.5
Mg ₂ F ₄	V	0.027	0.095	-0.0010	-22.9	-33.7

Among the observed electronic effect associated to complex formation, we noted a charge transfer from the XeH₂ and a subsequent increment of the total dipole moment versus the sum of those of the corresponding monomers (Table 3). The amount of charge transferred is highly dependent on the charge partition method and, in contrast to the expected tendency, the AIM partition provides negative charge transfer for some of the complexes. The individual effects on the atoms show a charge flow from the non-interacting hydrogen atom

to the interacting one. Thus, the former atom loses charge while the latter gains it. A similar tendency has already been described for dihydrogen bonded complexes of XeH₂ [25]. The main contribution to the dipole moment enhancement comes from the distortion of the XeH₂ molecule that lacks its symmetry, and thus presents dipole moment itself.

The analysis of the electron density of the complexes, shows the presence of bond critical points (bcp) between the interacting hydrogen and the metallic atoms (Table 4) and in

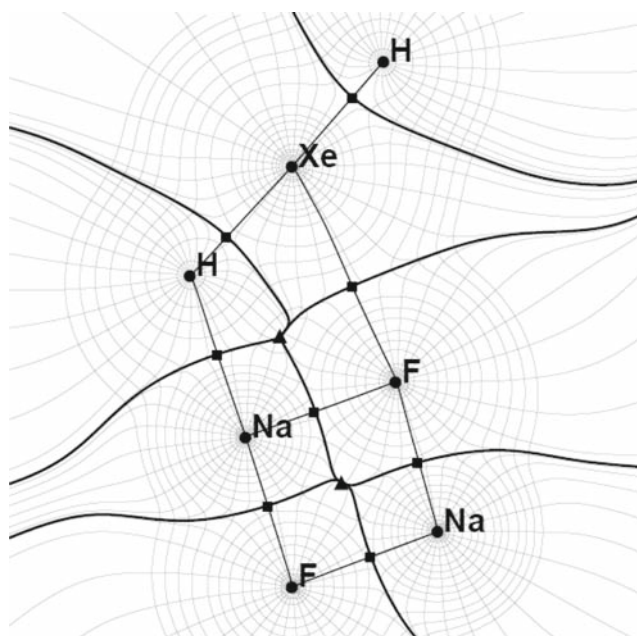


Fig. 2 Electron density map of the $\text{XeH}_2:\text{Na}_2\text{F}_2$ complex. Squares, triangles and dots indicate the position of the bond, ring and atomic critical points

most of the fluoro derivatives, between the xenon atom and the fluorine ones. As an example, the electron density map obtained for the $\text{XeH}_2:\text{Na}_2\text{F}_2$ complex is shown in Fig. 2. Similar interactions of electrostatic nature have been described in the literature between electron deficient and electron rich atoms [41,43]. These interactions are able to explain the extra stabilization observed in the fluoride derivatives versus the hydride ones. The characteristics of the bcps between the hydrogen atom of XeH_2 and the metal atom present small values of ρ and positive values of the Laplacian, as indication of closed shell interaction. However, in some of the cases with the larger values of rho a negative value of the total energy density, H, is obtained as indication of the partly covalent nature of those contacts [44,45].

The calculated variation of the molecular volume of XeH_2 , present variable results depending on the complex formed. The variation of the total volume follows a similar tendency to the ones observed for the XeH_2 moiety, especially if the systems are divided in hydride and fluoride ones (Fig. 3).

The calculated chemical shieldings of the XeH_2 molecule within the complexes confirms the charge flow from the non-interacting hydrogen atom to the interacting one. Thus, the non-interacting hydrogen and the xenon atom present chemical shielding variations towards lower fields while the interacting hydrogen atom is shifted towards higher fields, in good agreement with the charge variation tendency previously described. The high sensitivity of the xenon atom is shown by the variation range observed upon complexation (between -20 and -269 ppm) (Table 5).

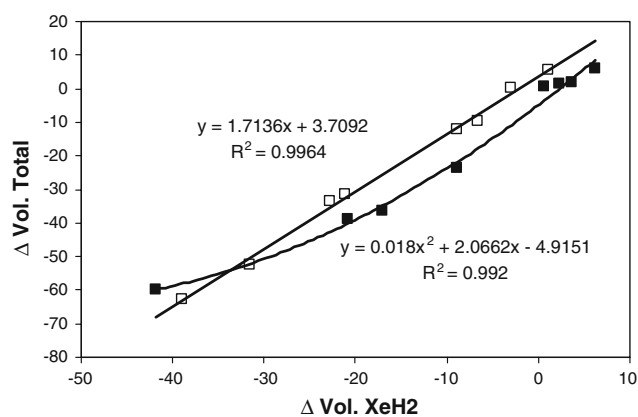


Fig. 3 Δ Vol of XeH_2 versus Δ Vol total (au.) Black and white squares represents the hydride and fluoride complexes

Table 5 Variation of the chemical shifts (ppm) of the XeH_2 molecule upon complexation at the B3LYP/DGDZVP computational level

	Type	H ^a	Xe	H ^b
LiH	I	-0.7	-69.2	1.0
LiF	I	-0.6	-22.5	1.3
NaH	I	-0.8	-72.6	0.3
NaF	I	-0.7	-20.1	0.7
BeH ₂	II	-0.6	-138.1	0.6
BeF ₂	II	0.2	-269.2	1.7
MgH ₂	II	-0.6	-116.3	0.7
MgF ₂	II	0.1	-231.5	1.5
Li ₂ H ₂	III	-0.7	-132.6	0.5
Li ₂ F ₂	III	-0.5	-145.9	0.7
Na ₂ H ₂	III	-0.6	-142.9	0.3
Na ₂ F ₂	III	-0.5	-126.3	0.4
Be ₂ H ₄	IV	-0.5	-98.3	4.2
Be ₂ F ₄	V	0.5	-278.5	2.3
Mg ₂ H ₄	IV	-0.7	-75.4	1.6
Mg ₂ F ₄	V	0.1	-224.4	1.6

The absolute chemical shielding of the isolated XeH_2 are 4,846.8 and 24.55 ppm for the Xe and H atoms, respectively

^a Hydrogen atom non involved in the interaction

^b Hydrogen atom involved in the interaction

4 Conclusions

A theoretical study of the inverse hydrogen bonds formed by XeH_2 and hydride and fluoride derivatives of Li, Be, Na and Mg has been carried out by means of DFT and ab initio methods, B3LYP and MP2. The results obtained conclude that very stable complexes are formed where a significant amount of electronic charge is transferred from the XeH_2 system to the metallic moieties, with concomitant important dipole moment enhancements.

The analysis of the electron density shows bcp between the interacting hydrogen and the metallic atoms as well as the interaction between the xenon and the fluorine atoms.

The calculated absolute chemical shieldings show the high sensitivity of the xenon atom and reflect the charge flow in this molecule upon complexation, making it a suitable probe for NMR studies [46].

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