

2.7: The Hydrogen Bond

Hydrogen bonds are formed between a species with a polar $X^{\delta-}-H^{\delta+}$ bond and a species with a lone pair ($Y^{\delta-}$), i.e., $X^{\delta-}-H^{\delta+} \cdots Y^{\delta-}$. The most common species for X are oxygen and nitrogen, and to a lesser extent carbon, fluorine, and sulfur. However, as long as the X-H bond is polar then hydrogen bonding is possible. Similarly, the most common Lewis bases that hydrogen bond involve oxygen, nitrogen, and fluorine as the donor atom. Again there are many examples of other atoms, but as long as the atom has a lone pair that is chemically active, hydrogen bonding can occur.

The majority of hydrogen bonds are asymmetrical, that is the hydrogen is closer to one atom than the other (Figure 2.7.2.15), even when X and Y are the same element, i.e., O-H...O. While the typical hydrogen bond involves one Lewis base (lone pair donor), there are many examples where the hydrogen interacts with two Lewis base lone pairs (Figure 2.7.2.16).

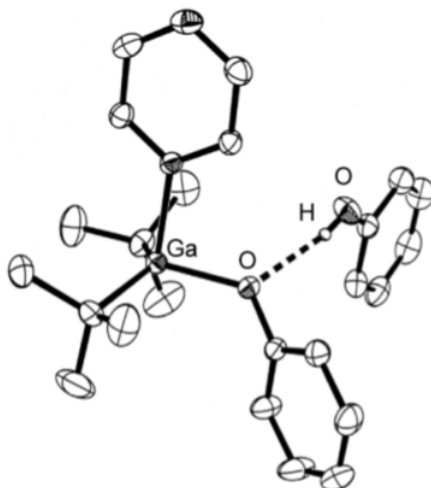


Figure 2.7.15: Structure of $(t\text{Bu})_2\text{Ga}(\text{OPh})(\text{pyz})(\text{PhOH})$ from X-ray crystallographic data showing the presence of an asymmetrical hydrogen bond. Hydrogen atoms attached to carbon are omitted for clarity. Adapted from L. H. van Poppel, S. G. Bott and A. R. Barron, *Polyhedron*, 2002, **21**, 1877.

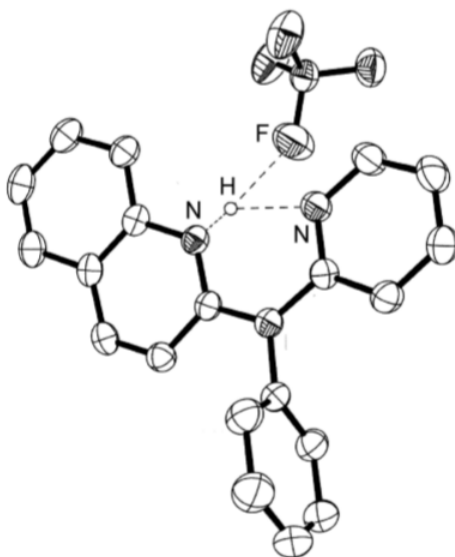


Figure 2.7.16: Structure of $[\text{H}\{\text{PhN}(\text{py})(\text{quin})\}]\text{BF}_4$ from X-ray crystallographic data showing the presence of a trifurcated asymmetrical hydrogen bond. Hydrogen atoms attached to carbon are omitted for clarity. Adapted from J. J. Allen, C. E. Hamilton, and A. R. Barron, *J. Chem. Cryst.*, 2009.

Hydrogen bonds are mostly electrostatic attractions, and as such they are weaker than covalent bonds, but stronger than van der Waal interactions. With bond strengths generally covering the range of 5–50 kJ/mol, the energy required to break a hydrogen bond is comparable to that of thermal motion within the temperature range of 0–200°C. As a consequence the number of groups involved

in hydrogen bonding decreases with increasing temperature, until few hydrogen bonds are observed in the vapor phase. One noted exception is the hydrogen bridged anion $[\text{F}-\text{H}-\text{F}]^-$, in which the strong interaction (243 kJ/mol) is covalent in character involving a three-center molecular orbital bond.

Classes of hydrogen bond

Although hydrogen bonds may be characterized with respect to the X and Y atom, it is more useful to classify them as either intramolecular or intermolecular hydrogen bonds. This is due to the difference in physical and chemical properties between these two classes.

Intramolecular

Intramolecular hydrogen bonds ($\text{X}-\text{H}\cdots\text{Y}$) arise where the X and Y atoms are in the same molecule (Figure 2.7.2.17).

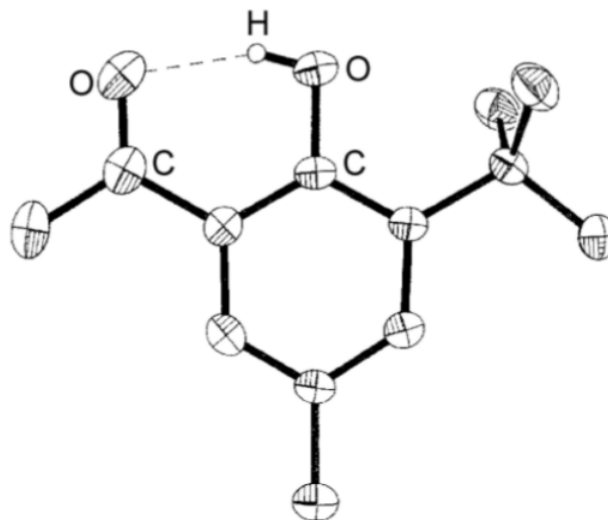


Figure 2.7.17: Structure of 3-*tert*-butyl-2-hydroxy-5-methylacetophenone showing the presence of an intramolecular hydrogen bond. Hydrogen atoms attached to carbon are omitted for clarity. Adapted from M. B. Power, A. R. Barron, S. G. Bott, E. J. Bishop, K. D. Tierce and J. L. Atwood, *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.*, 1991, 241.

Intermolecular

If the hydrogen bond ($\text{X}-\text{H}\cdots\text{Y}$) involves X and Y being from different molecules this is an intermolecular hydrogen bond. Within the range of intermolecular hydrogen bonded compounds there are two sub-categories: those involving discrete molecular species (oligomers) and those resulting in polymeric species.

Carboxylic acids are a typical example of a discrete oligomeric species that are held together by intermolecular hydrogen bonds (Figure 2.7.2.18a). A wide range of structurally analogous compounds also form head-to-tail hydrogen bonded dimers (e.g., Figure 2.7.2.19). In a polymeric hydrogen bonded species every molecule hydrogen bonds but in a random form. As an example, liquid primary alcohols form extended hydrogen networks (Figure 2.7.2.18b). Such an arrangement is labile and as such it is difficult to determine definitive speciation. Liquids that form this type of hydrogen-bonded network are known as associated liquids. In the solid state the networks generally adopt a more ordered structure. For example as is seen in the structure of ice.

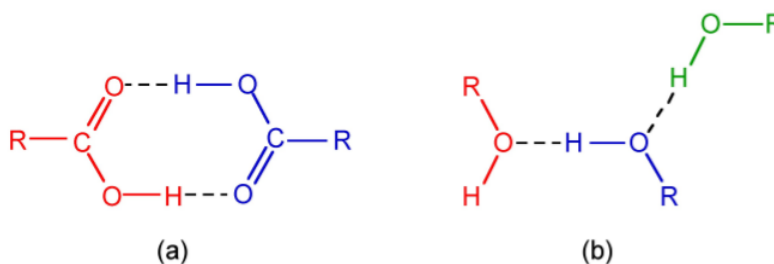


Figure 2.7.18: Structure of (a) the head-to-tail dimer formed between two carboxylic acid molecules, and (b) a typical network of a primary alcohol in the liquid phase.

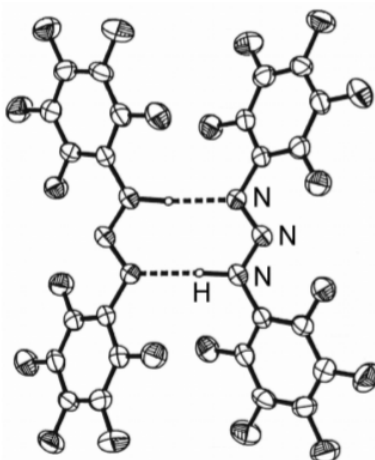


Figure 2.7.19: Structure of the hydrogen bonded dimer of $(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{NNN}(\text{H})(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)$. Adapted from J. T. Leman, J. Braddock-Wilking, A. J. Coolong, and A. R. Barron, *Inorg. Chem.*, 1993, **32**, 4324.

Methods of study

The study of the structure arising from hydrogen bonding and the properties exhibited due to the presence of hydrogen bonds is very important.

Diffraction methods

X-ray diffraction of single crystals is the most common structural method employed to determine the presence, effect, and strength of a hydrogen bond. Unfortunately, in order for the location of the hydrogen to be determined with some degree of accuracy, diffraction data of a high quality is needed and/or low temperature (e.g., -196°C) data collection is required. Neutron scattering can be used where very accurate data is required because hydrogen atoms scatter neutrons better than they do X-rays. Figure 2.7.220 summarizes the key parameters that are obtained from X-ray (and neutron) diffraction experiments.

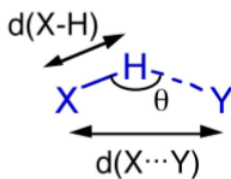


Figure 2.7.20: Structural parameters obtained from diffraction methods.

Given the electrostatic nature of a hydrogen bond between a polar X-H bond and a Lewis base it is reasonable that the X-H...Y angle (θ) is roughly linear (i.e., 180°). However, it is not always so and nonlinear interactions are known where steric or conformational restrictions limit the orientation of the X-H bond with respect to Y.

The distance between X and Y, $d(\text{X}\cdots\text{Y})$, is less than the sum of the van der Waals radii of X and Y (Table 2.7.2.5). This is in line with the relative strength of these interactions. As would be expected the shorter the X...Y distance the stronger the hydrogen bond.

Table 2.7.2.5: Comparison of the X...Y distance in hydrogen bonded species with the sum of the van der Waals radii.

X	Y	Sum of van der Waals radii (Å)	Typical X...Y distance (Å)
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X	Y	Sum of van der Waal radii (Å)	Typical X...Y distance (Å)
O	O	2.8	2.50-2.69
O	N	2.9	2.75-2.85
N	N	3.0	2.69-2.98

The bond distance to hydrogen, $d(X-H)$, is often longer in hydrogen bonded species. For example the O-H distance for an alcohol in the absence of hydrogen bonding is typically 0.97 Å. In contrast, the value typically seen for a hydrogen-bonded analog is 1.05 Å.

Spectroscopy

Spectroscopy is a simple method of comparing hydrogen-bonded systems in particular in the solution or liquid phase.

Infra red and Raman

The X-H stretching frequency in the IR (and Raman) spectrum is dependant on the identity of X, i.e., O-H = 3610 - 3640 cm^{-1} and N-H = 3400 - 3500 cm^{-1} . However, the $\nu(X-H)$ is shifted to lower energy (lower frequency) as a consequence of hydrogen bonding. In addition, while non-hydrogen bonded X-H stretches are sharp, the presence of hydrogen bonding results in the peak being broadened. Figure X demonstrates both these effects. The O-H stretch for dilute ${}^n\text{BuOH}$ in CCl_4 is a sharp peak at 3650 cm^{-1} due to the lack of hydrogen bonding between the two components (Figure 2.7.221a), and the presence of hydrogen bonding between ${}^n\text{BuOH}$ and ${}^n\text{BuOH}$ is limited by the dilution. By contrast, a dilute solution of ${}^n\text{BuOH}$ in Et_2O results in a shift to lower frequency and a significant increase of peak width (Figure 2.7.221b) as a result of fairly strong O-H...O bonds. Finally, a dilute solution of ${}^n\text{BuOH}$ in NMe_3 results in a further shift to 3250 cm^{-1} and a very broad peak (Figure 2.7.221c). The broadening of the peaks is due to the distribution of X-H distances within a X-H...Y hydrogen bond.

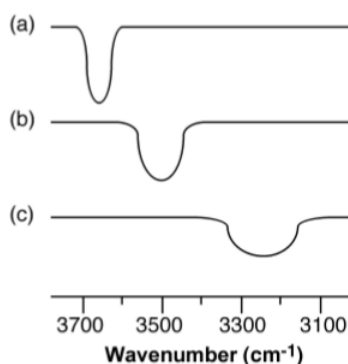


Figure 2.7.21: Schematic representation of the O-H stretch region in the IR spectra of a dilute solution of ${}^n\text{BuOH}$ in (a) CCl_4 , (b) Et_2O , and (c) NEt_3 .

NMR

The presence of hydrogen bonding results the shift to higher ppm (lower frequency) of the ${}^1\text{H}$ NMR resonance for the proton. This shift is due to the decrease in shielding of the proton. A dilute solution of ${}^n\text{BuOH}$ in CCl_4 shows a resonance typical of a non-hydrogen bonded compound (Figure 2.7.222a), while that for ${}^n\text{BuOH}$ in NMe_3 (Figure 2.7.222b) shows a significant low field shift. Very strong intra or intermolecular hydrogen bonded species show a very large ${}^1\text{H}$ NMR shift (e.g., Figure 2.7.222c).

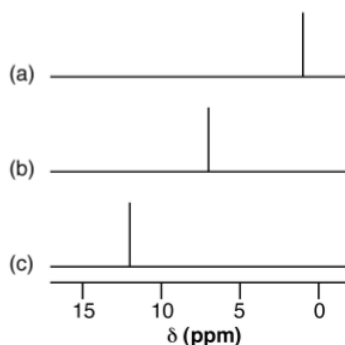


Figure 2.7.22: Schematic representation of the relative shift of the OH resonance for (a) ${}^n\text{BuOH}$ in CCl_4 , (b) ${}^n\text{BuOH}$ in NEt_3 , and (c) concentrated acetic acid.

Effects of hydrogen bonding

Physical effects

The presence of intermolecular hydrogen bonding provides additional attractive forces between molecules. Thus, properties that depend on intramolecular forces are affected.

Liquids with significant hydrogen bonding exhibit higher boiling points, higher viscosity, and higher heat of vaporization (ΔH_v) as compared to analogous compounds without extensive hydrogen bonding. For solids the presence of hydrogen bonding results in an increase in the melting point of the solid and an increase in the associated heat of fusion (ΔH_f).

The archetypal case for the effect of hydrogen bonding is the melting and boiling points of the hydrides of the Group 16 elements, i.e., H_2E . For a series of analogous compounds with the same molecular structure it would be expected that the boiling points would be related to the molecular mass. However, as can be seen from Table 2.7.2, the melting and boiling points of water are anomalously higher than those of its heavier analogs. In fact from Figure 2.7.2.23 it is clear that just considering H_2S , H_2Se , and H_2Te , the expected trend is observed, and it is similar to that for the Group 14 hydrides (CH_4 , SiH_4 , etc). Therefore, water must have additional intermolecular forces as compared to its heavier homologs. This observation is consistent with the strong hydrogen bonding in water, and the very weak if nonexistent hydrogen bonding in the sulfur, selenium, and tellurium analogs.

Table 2.7.2: Summary of physical properties for the hydrides of the Group 16 elements.

Compound	Molecular weight (g/mol)	Melting point ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Boiling Point ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)
H_2O	18.01	0	100
H_2S	34.08	-85.5	-60.7
H_2Se	80.98	-60.4	-41.5
H_2Te	129.62	-49	-2

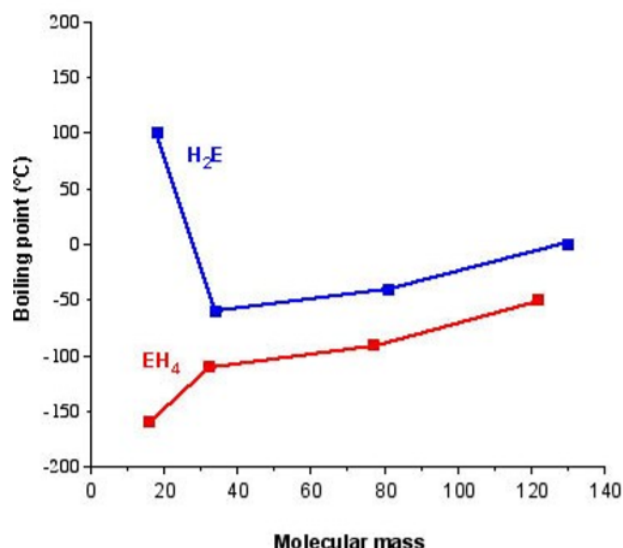


Figure 2.7.23: Plot of boiling point as a function of molecular weight for the hydrides of the Group 14 (EH_4) and 16 (H_2E) elements.

A similar but not as pronounced trend is observed for the Group 15 hydrides, where ammonia's higher values are associated with the presence of significant hydrogen bonding (Table 2.7.2.7).

Table 2.7.2: Summary of physical properties for the hydrides of the Group 15 elements.

Compound	Molecular weight (g/mol)	Melting point (°C)	Boiling Point (°C)
NH_3	17.03	-77.7	-33.35
PH_3	34.00	-133.5	-87.4
AsH_3	77.95	-113.5	-55
SbH_3	124.77	-88.5	-17

Exercise

Would you expect H_2S_2 to have a higher or lower boiling point than H_2O_2 ? Why?

Answer

The boiling point for H_2O_2 is 150.2 °C, while that of 70.7 °C. The difference in boiling point is due to the stronger intermolecular hydrogen bonding in H_2O_2 than in H_2S_2 .

The types of hydrogen bond can also have a significant effect on the physical properties of a compound. For example, the *cis* isomer of hydroxybenzaldehyde melts at 1 °C, while the *trans* isomer has melting and boiling points of 112 °C. Both compounds exhibit strong hydrogen bonding in the solid state, however, as may be seen from Figure 2.7.2.24a, *cis*-hydroxybenzaldehyde (salicylaldehyde) has a configuration that allows strong intramolecular hydrogen bonding, which precludes any intermolecular hydrogen bonding. The melting point of *cis*-hydroxybenzaldehyde is going to be controlled by the van der Waal forces between adjacent molecules. In contrast, since intramolecular hydrogen bonding is precluded in the *trans* isomer (Figure 2.7.2.24b) it can form strong intermolecular hydrogen bonds in the solid state, and thus, it is these that define the melting point. The boiling points are controlled in a similar manner.

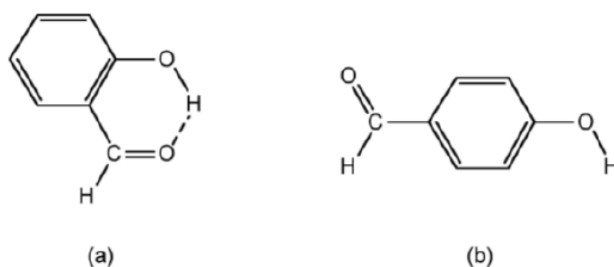


Figure 2.7.24: Structures of (a) salicylaldehyde and (b) trans-hydroxybenzaldehyde.

Exercise

4-Hydroxybenzoic acid melts at 213 °C, while 2-hydroxybenzoic acid melts at 158 °C. Explain this observation.

Answer

2-Hydroxybenzoic acid exhibits strong intramolecular hydrogen bonding while 4-hydroxybenzoic acid has strong intermolecular hydrogen bonding.

Melting and boiling are not the only physical properties that are affected by hydrogen bonding. Solubility can also be affected. Consider two isomers of $C_4H_{10}O$: n BuOH and Et_2O . The n -butanol is much more soluble in water than diethyl ether. The reason for this is that while both compounds can hydrogen bond to water, those between n BuOH and water are much stronger than those between Et_2O and water, and thus, dissolution of n BuOH in water does not disrupt the very strong hydrogen bonding in water as much as Et_2O does.

Acid strength

The acidity of a protic species can be affected by the presence of hydrogen bonding. For example, consider the di-carboxylic acid derivatives of ethylene (fumaric acid). Each of the carboxylic acid groups has sequential equilibria that may be defined by the pK values, (2.36). Table 2.7.2 lists the pK values for the *cis* and *trans* isomers. The acidity of the first and second carboxylic group for the *trans* isomer is similar, the difference being due to the increased charge on the molecule. In contrast, the second proton in the *cis* isomer is much less acidic than the first proton: why? A consideration of the structure of the mono anion of the *cis* isomer (Figure 2.7.225) shows that a very strong intramolecular hydrogen bond is formed once the first proton is removed. This hydrogen bond makes the second acidic proton much more difficult to remove and thus lowers the acidity of the proton.

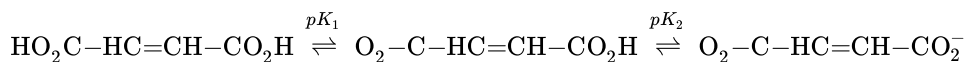


Table 2.7.2: Acidity equilibrium constants for *cis* and *trans* isomers of fumaric acid.

Isomer	pK_1	pK_2	Ratio
<i>Trans</i>	3	4.5	25:1
<i>Cis</i>	1.9	6.2	10,000:1

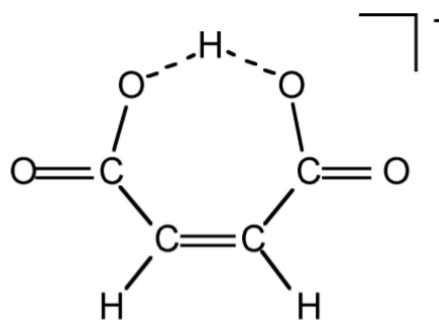


Figure 2.7.25: Structure of *cis*-[O₂C-HC=CH-CO₂H]⁻.

Solid state structure

In the solid state, molecules that can form hydrogen bonds will tend to arrange themselves so as to maximize the formation of linear hydrogen bonds. The structure of ice is a typical example, where each water molecule's hydrogen bonds to four other molecules creating a diamond-like lattice (Figure 2.7.226). However, ice isn't the only compound whose solid state structure is defined by its hydrogen bonding. Cyanuric acid forms six strong intermolecular hydrogen bonds to three other molecules in the plane of the heterocyclic ring and thus creates a graphite-like structure (Figure 2.7.227).

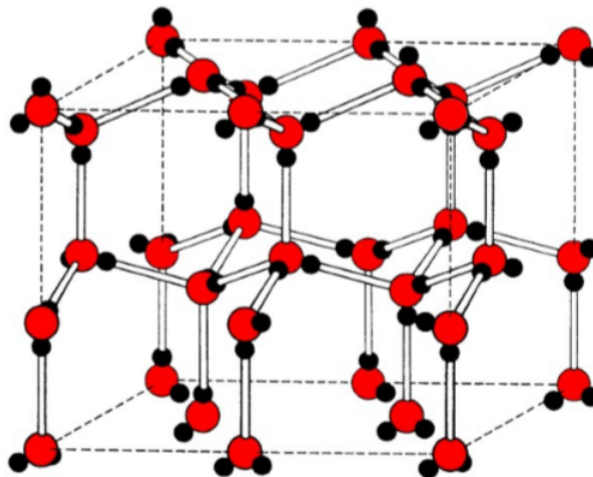


Figure 2.7.26: The diamond-like structure formed in ice by hydrogen bonding.

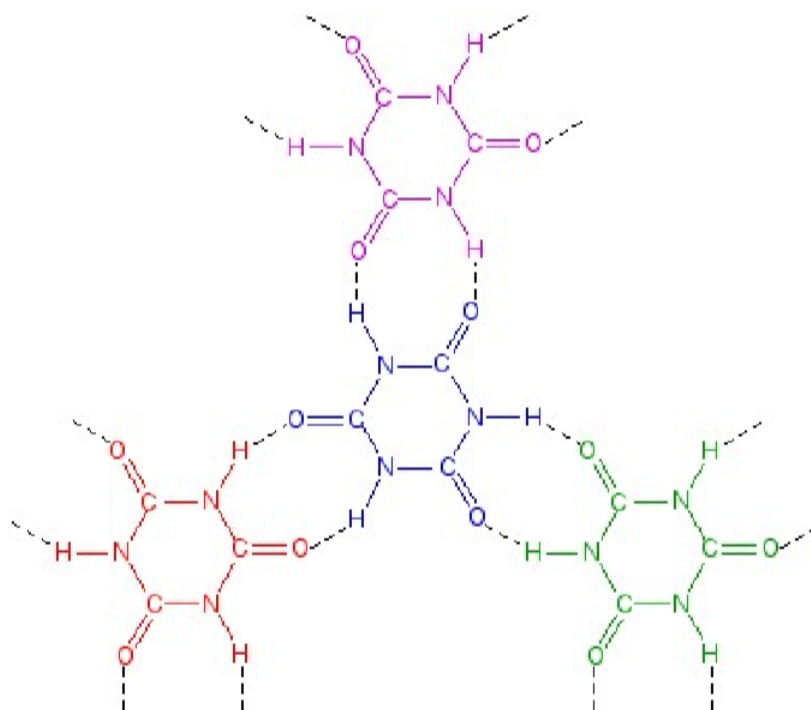


Figure 2.7.27: The hydrogen bonding of cyanuric acid.

Conformational stabilization

The presence of hydrogen bonding can stabilize certain conformations over others that in the absence of hydrogen bonding would be more favored. For example, based on steric considerations $\text{H}_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{H}$ would be expected to adopt a staggered conformation as is typical for compounds with free rotation about a C-C bond. However, due to the presence of a strong intramolecular hydrogen bond it adopts a sterically disfavored eclipsed conformation (Figure 2.7.28).

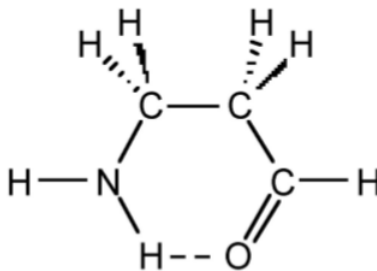


Figure 2.7.28: Stable conformation of $\text{H}_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{H}$.

This conformational stabilization is even more important in biopolymers such as peptides. If we assume that a peptide chain (Figure 2.7.229) made from a sequence of amino acids would not adopt any eclipsed conformations on steric grounds, and that the amide group ($\text{H}-\text{N}-\text{C}=\text{O}$) is near planar due to delocalization, then there will be 3^2 possible conformations per nitrogen in the peptide chain, i.e., three each for the C-C and C-N bonds (Figure 2.7.229). Assuming a modest peptide has 50 amino acids, there will be $3^{2 \times 50}$ potential conformations of the polymer chain, i.e., over 5×10^{47} conformations. However, in reality there are limits to the number of conformations observed since particular ones are stabilized by intramolecular hydrogen bonds. The most important of these are the α -helix (Figure 2.7.230) and β -sheet structures.

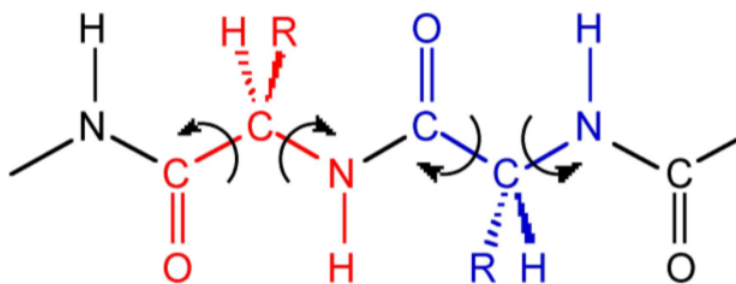


Figure 2.7.29: A section of a peptide polymer chain showing the possible rotational freedom of the C-C and C-N bonds.

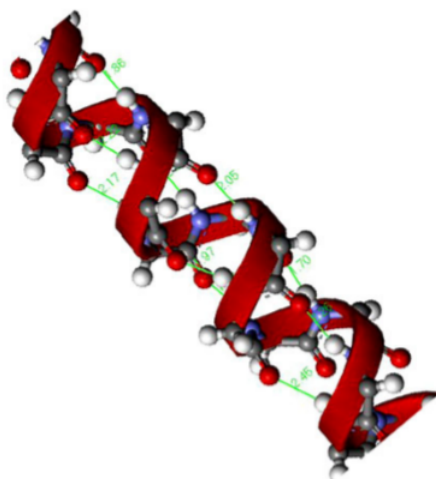


Figure 2.7.30: A representation of a peptide α -helix structure showing the stabilizing hydrogen bonds.

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