

**IUPAC Workshop**

***Hydrogen Bonding and Other Molecular Interactions***

***San Giuliano Terme, Pisa, Italy  
5-9 September 2005***

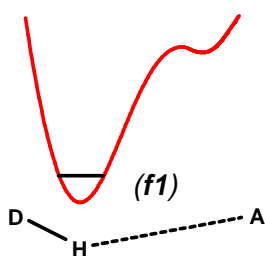
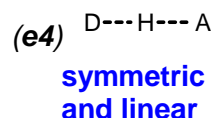
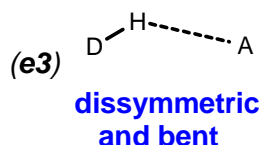
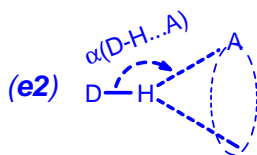
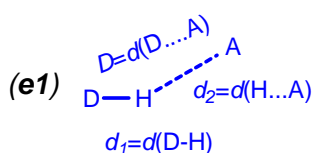
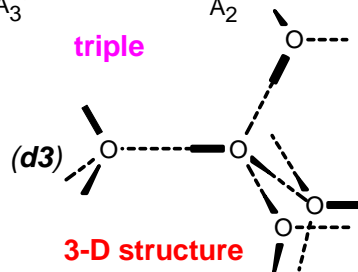
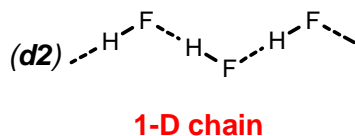
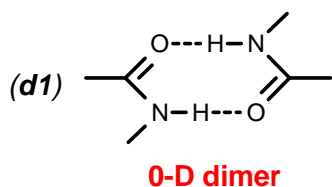
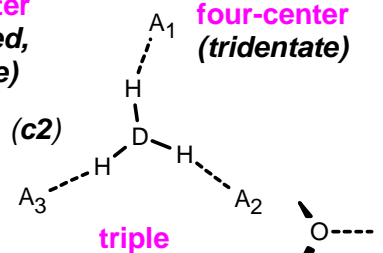
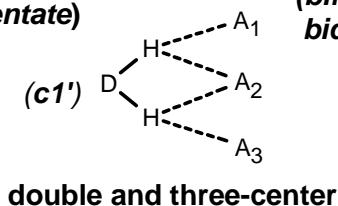
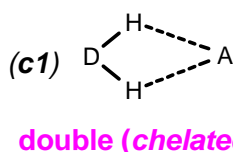
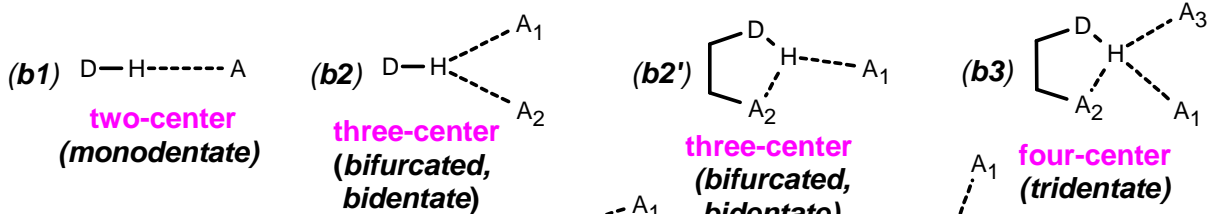
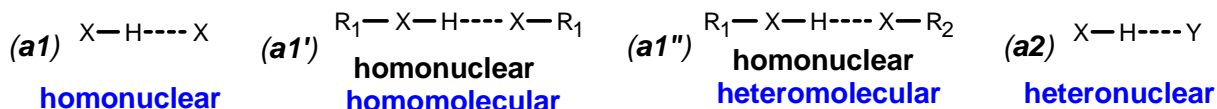


***Lecture***

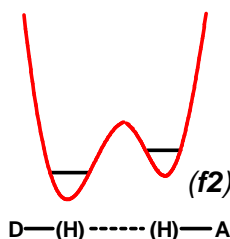
***Leitmotifs in Strong Hydrogen Bonding***

***By Gastone Gilli  
Department of Chemistry  
and  
Centre for Structural Diffractometry  
University of Ferrara, Italy***

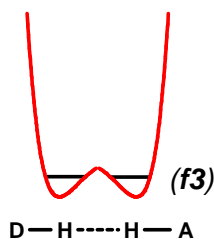
## HB BASIC NOMENCLATURE



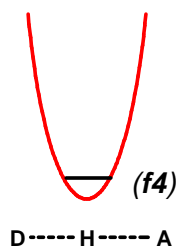
**aSW-HB**  
**Asymmetric Single-Well High-Barrier H-Bond**  
**Properties:**  
 Weak, long and strongly dissymmetric.  
 Ordered both in solution and in crystals.  
 Essentially electrostatic.



**aDW-MB**  
**Asymmetric Double-Well Mid-Barrier H-Bond**  
**Properties:**  
 Moderate strength.  
 Tautomeric exchange in solution and static disorder in crystals.  
 Partially covalent.



**sDW-LB**  
**Symmetric Double-Well Low-Barrier H-Bond**  
**Properties:**  
 Strong and short.  
 Tautomeric exchange in solution and dynamic disorder in crystals.  
 Partially covalent.



**sSW-NB**  
**Symmetric Single-Well No-Barrier H-Bond**  
**Properties:**  
 Very strong and short.  
 Symmetric and linear.  
 Ordered crystals.  
 Essentially Covalent.

# A CHEMICO-TOPOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION OF THE HYDROGEN BOND

## TAXONOMY OF SHARED-PROTON INTERACTIONS

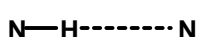
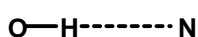
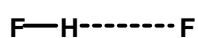
### 1st Category. 3-Centre-4-electron bonds



#### Group 1.1 a Conventional HBs



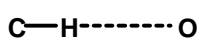
$D, A = N, O, F, Cl, Br$



#### Group 1.1 b Weak HB-Donors



$W D = C, S, P, Se, Si$

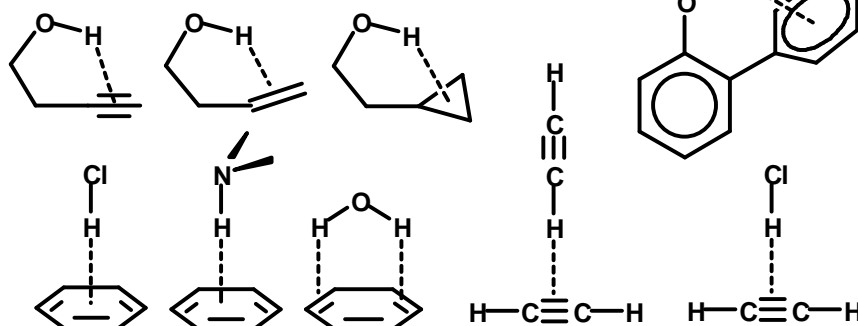


#### Group 1.1 c Weak HB-Acceptors

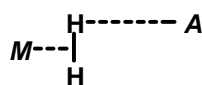
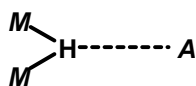
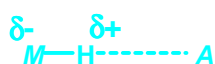


$W A = \text{organic } F, Cl \text{ and } Br, S, Se, Te, P, As, Sb, \text{isonitriles, carbenes}$

#### Group 1.1 d Weak HBs with $\pi$ -HB-Acceptors



#### Group 1.2 a Metals as HB-Donors



$M = \text{Transition Metal}$

#### Group 1.2 b Metals as HB-Acceptors



$M = Fe, Co, Ir, Pd, Pt$   
in low oxidation states

#### Group 1.3 Dihydrogen Bonds

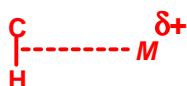


$M = B, Ga, Al,$   
Transition Metal

### 2nd Category. 3-Centre-2-electron bonds

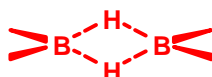


#### Group 2.1 Agostic Interactions



$M = \text{Transition Metal}$

#### Group 2.2 Boranes



#### Group 2.3 Inverse H-Bond



# The Hydrogen Bond (HB)

## Definitions

The HB is a

**Three-Center-Four-Electron  
Proton-Shared Interaction**

having the general form



where

**D** is the **HB Donor**

{ An **electronegative atom** such as  
F, O, N, C, S, Cl, Br and I }

and

**:A the HB Acceptor** or **Lone Pair Carrier**

{ A second **electronegative atom**

or

a **multiple bond**, that is  **$\pi$ -bond** ) }

The HB can also be seen as

*a single proton sharing*

*two lone electron pairs*

*from two adjacent*

*electronegative atoms or groups*



## The Most Striking HB Property: Its Modulability

☛ Chemical bonds have **nearly invariant lengths and energies**, in the sense that they are weakly affected by **chemical substitution** or **chemical environment**.

☛ **HBs have completely different properties.**

### First Example



in the gas phase and in molecular crystals

1a. Changes of the **Substituents  $R_1$  and  $R_2$**  can modify

☛ the **HB Energy ( $E_{HB}$ )** from **1** to some **30 kcal/mol**,  
and the **O...O Contact Distance** from **3.10** to **2.38 Å**.

1b. Changes of **Acid-Base Properties of the Environment**

can cause even more astonishing effects:

☛ **Neutral Environment** (Simple Dimer):



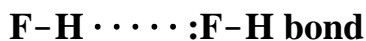
☛ **Acid Environment** (Protonated Dimer):



☛ **Basic Environment** (Deprotonated Dimer):



### Second Example



in the gas phase and in molecular crystals

☛ **Neutral Environment** (Simple Dimer):



☛ **Basic Environment** (Deprotonated Dimer):



## A New Classification of the HB: By HB Strength

	<i>Strong</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Weak</i>
<i>H-bond nature</i>	<i>mostly covalent</i>	<i>mostly electrostatic</i>	<i>electrostatic</i>
<i>Bond lengths</i>	$D-H \approx H \cdots A$	$D-H < H \cdots A$	$D-H \ll H \cdots A$
$H \cdots A$ (Å)	1.2-1.5	1.5-2.2	2.2-3.2
$D \cdots A$ (Å)	2.2-2.5	2.5-3.2	3.2-4.0
$D-H-A$ angle (°)	165-180	130-180	90-150
<i>Energy (kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>)</i>	<b>15-45</b>	<b>4-15</b>	<b>&lt; 4</b>
<i>Relative decrease of the IR <math>\nu(D-H)</math> frequency</i>	> 25%	10-25%	< 10%
<i>NMR <math>\delta(DH)</math> chemical shift (ppm)</i>	14-22	< 14	-
<i>Typical donors</i>	$[=O-H]^+$ , $[\equiv N-H]^+$	$-O-H$ , $=N-H$ , $P-O-H$	$C-H$ , $Si-H$
<i>Typical acceptors</i>	$[F]^-$ , $[-O]^-$ , $[P-O]^-$	$=O$ , $\equiv N$ , $P=O$	$C \equiv C$ , <i>phenyl</i>
<i>Typical H-bonds</i>	<p><b>Charge-assisted:</b>  <math>[H_2O \cdots H \cdots OH_2]^+</math>; <i>proton sponges</i> <math>[\equiv N \cdots H \cdots N \equiv]^+</math>;  <math>[R-COO \cdots H \cdots OOC-R]^-</math>;  <math>[O_3SO \cdots H \cdots OSO_3]^-</math>;  <math>R_3N^+ - H \cdots ^-OOCR</math>;  <b>Resonance-assisted:</b>  <math>\cdots O=C-C=C-OH \cdots</math>  <math>\cdots O=C-C=C-NRH \cdots</math></p>	<p><math>-O-H \cdots O=</math>;  <math>-O-H \cdots N \equiv</math>;  <math>-N-H \cdots O=</math>;  <math>-N-H \cdots N \equiv</math>;  <b><math>\sigma</math>-cooperative or polarization-assisted:</b>  <math>\cdots O-H \cdots O-H \cdots</math></p>	<p><math>C-H \cdots O</math>;  <math>C-H \cdots N</math>;  <i>O/N-H <math>\cdots \pi</math> bonds</i></p>

## The Five HB Chemical Leitmotifs (CLs)

☛ *The most interesting aspect of a HB classification based on HB strength* is that we discover that strong HBs belong only to a small number of chemical scheme that we have called **Chemical Leitmotifs**.



*The Alchemic Piper plays the  
Five Magic Tunes that make any  
Hydrogen Bond stronger:*

*The Chemical Leitmotifs*

☛ ☛ Results are published in

JACS 1989, 1991, 1994, 2000, 2002, and 2004

ActaCrystB 1993, 1995, 1998, 1999, and 1999

JCSPerkinT 1993, 1997

JMolStruct 2000

Chemistry 1996

NJC 1994, 1999

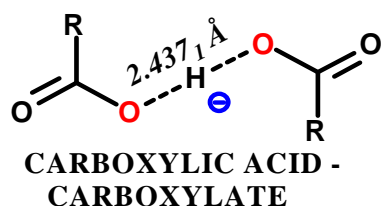
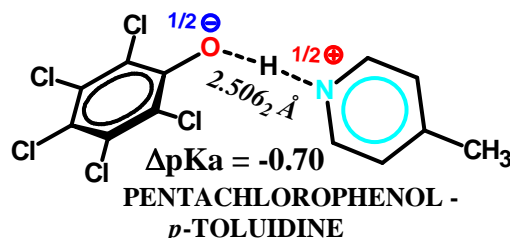
☛ The interested reader can retrieve them from the **ISI Web of Science** by looking for the names of the main contributors, that is

☛ ☛ **P. GILLI, V. BERTOLASI, V. FERRETTI, and G. GILLI**

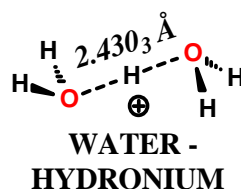
# The Five HB Chemical Leitmotifs (CLs)

## Charge - Assisted HBs

**CL # 1: (+/-)CAHB**  **SHB, VSHB**  
**Positive/Negative Charge-Assisted HBs**  
**Short and Very Short HBs**

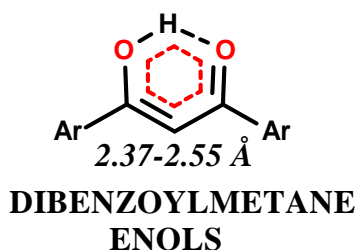


**CL # 2: (-)CAHB**  **SHB, VSHB**  
**Negative Charge -Assisted HBs**  
**Short and Very Short HBs**

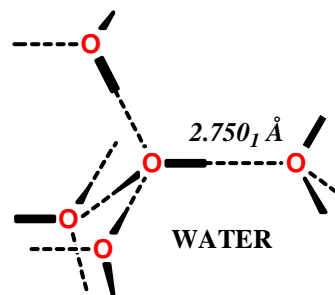


**CL # 3: (+)CAHB**  **SHB, VSHB**  
**Positive Charge -Assisted HB**  
**Short and Very Short HBs**

## $\Pi/\Sigma$ -Bond Polarization - Assisted HBs

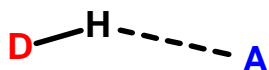



**CL # 4: RAHB**  **SHB, VSHB**  
**Resonance - Assisted HBs**  
**Short and Very Short HBs**



**CL # 5: PAHB**  **MSHB**  
**Polarization - Assisted HB**  
**Mid - Short HBs**

## Neither Charged- Nor $\Pi/\Sigma$ -Bond-Polarization-Assisted HBs



**CL # 6: OHB or IHB**  **WHB**  
**Ordinary or Isolated HBs**



# THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF CHEMICAL LEITMOTIFS

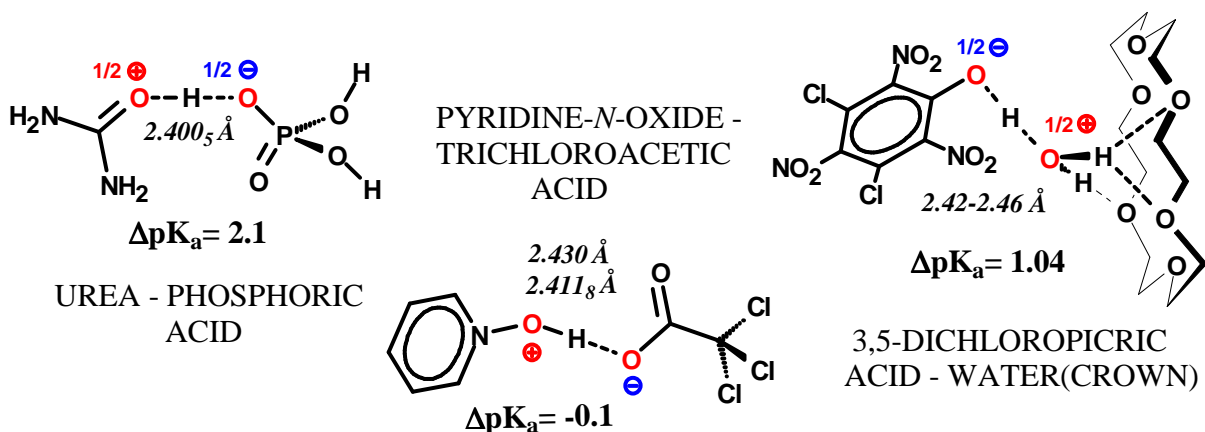
## Chemical Leitmotif # 1:

(+/-)CAHB

Positive/Negative Charge-Assisted HB

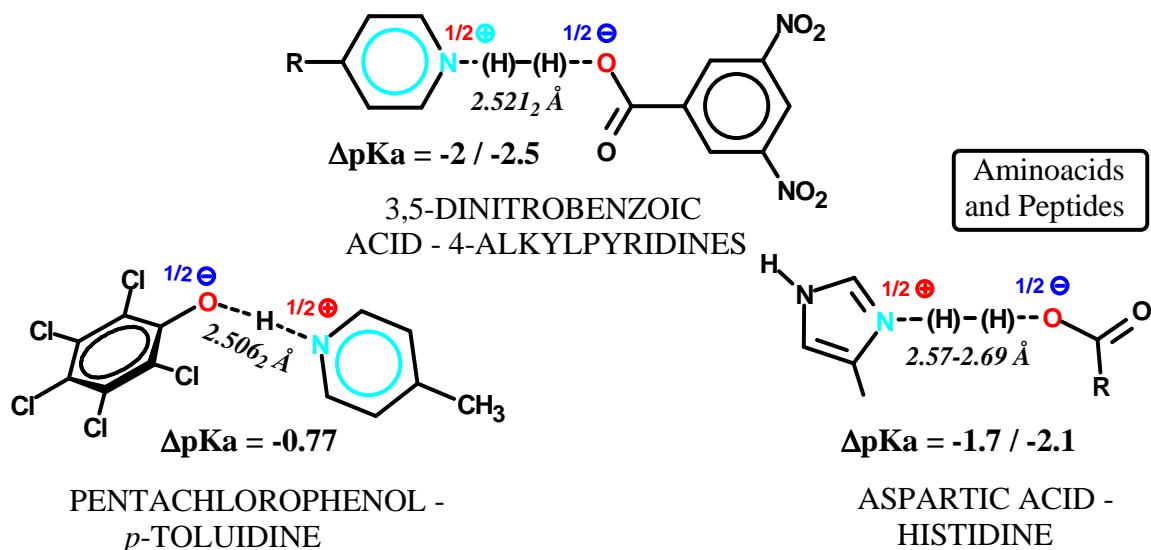


### HOMONUCLEAR O-H...O



### HETERONUCLEAR N-H...O/O-H...N

(+/-)CAHB



### CLASS 6: OHB/IHB. Ordinary or Isolated HB

OHB/IHB

Bond	O-H...O	N-H...N	N-H...O	S-H...S
Intermolecular	2.70-2.84	2.85-3.10	2.87-3.30	
Intramolecular	2.55-2.90	2.80-3.00	2.71-2.85	

# THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF CHEMICAL LEITMOTIFS

## Chemical Leitmotif # 2:

**(-)CAHB**

**Negative Charge-Assisted HB**



## Chemical Leitmotif # 3:

**(+)CAHB**

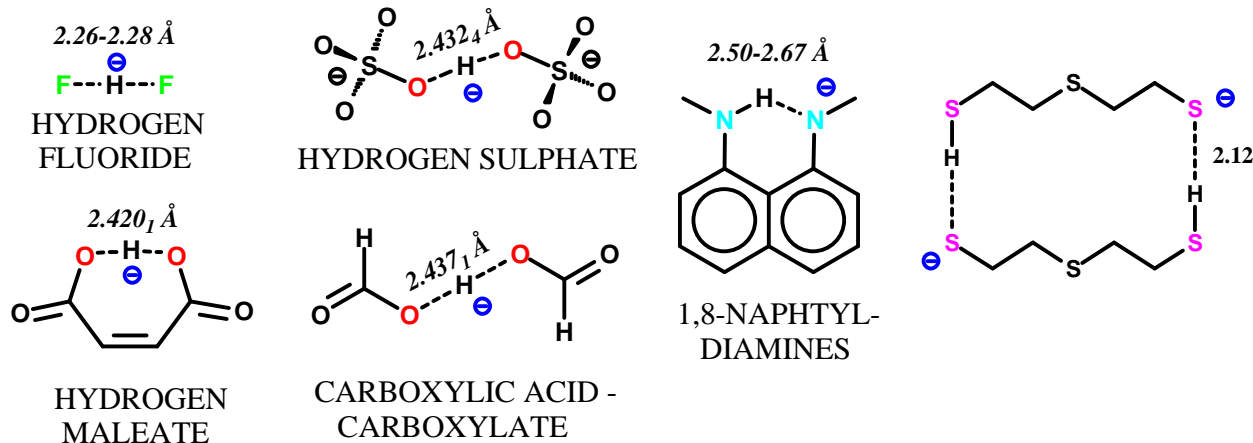
**Positive Charge-Assisted HB**



### CLASS 2: (-)CAHB. Negative charge-assisted HB

**(-)CAHB**

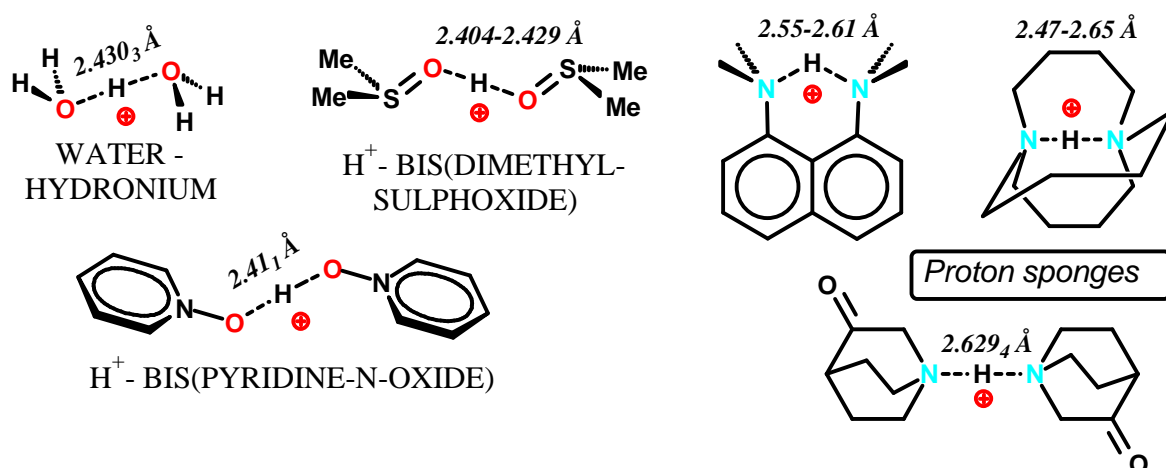
#### HOMONUCLEAR X-H...X (X= F, O, N, S)



### CLASS 3: (+)CAHB. Positive charge-assisted H-bond

**(+)CAHB**

#### HOMONUCLEAR X-H...X (X= O, N)

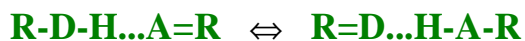


# THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF CHEMICAL LEITMOTIFS

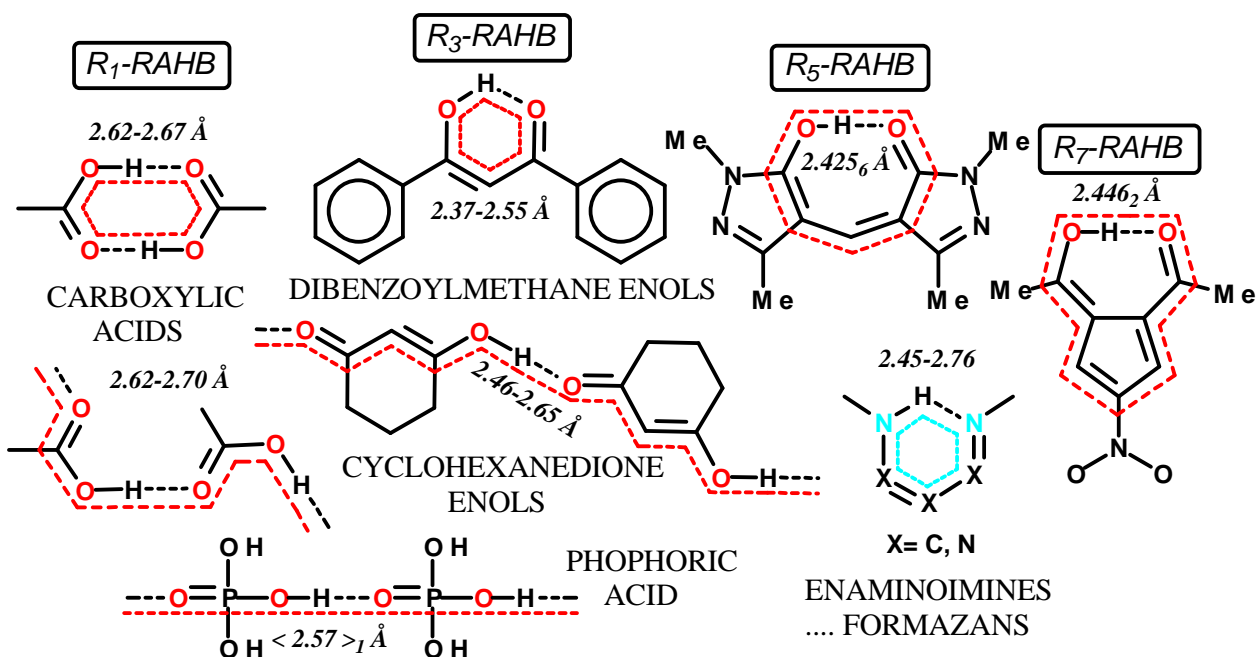
## Chemical Leitmotif # 4:

### RAHB

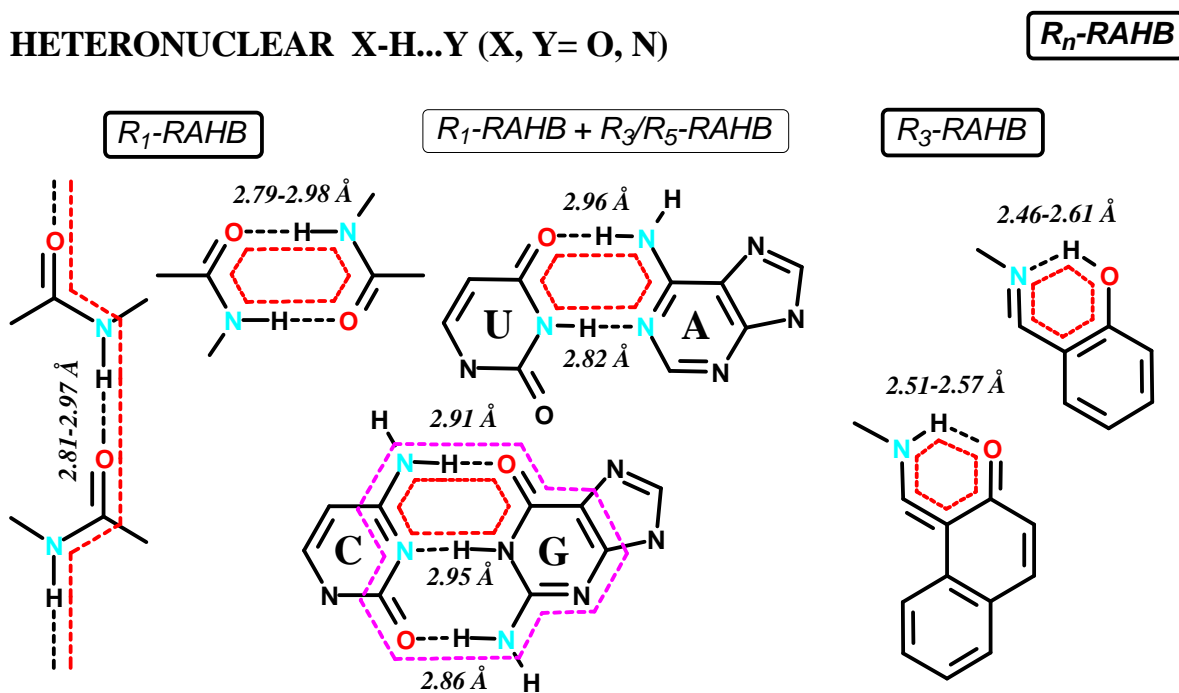
*Resonance-Assisted or  $\pi$ -Bond Cooperative HB*



### HOMONUCLEAR X-H...X (X= O, N)



### HETERONUCLEAR X-H...Y (X, Y= O, N)

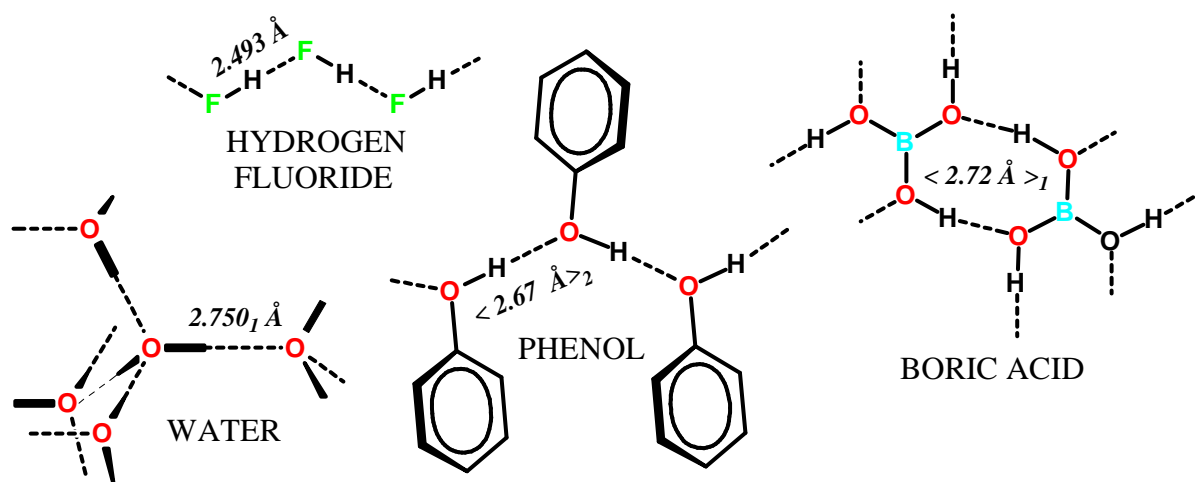


# THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF CHEMICAL LEITMOTIFS

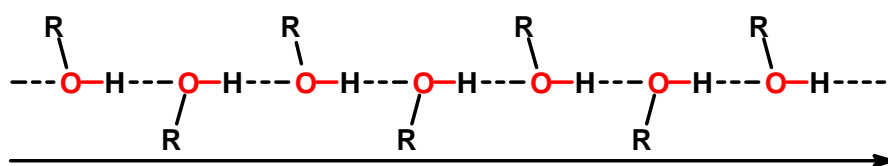
## Chemical Leitmotif # 5:

### PAHB

### Polarization-Assisted or $\sigma$ -Bond Cooperative HB



The most known HB of this type is the  *$\sigma$ -Bond-Cooperative Chain of H-bonded ...O(R)H.. groups* (Jeffrey and Saenger, 1991)



(R= alkyl, aryl or H in, respectively, alcohols, phenols or water).

Because of the *rather low polarizability of the  $\sigma$  bond*, this Leitmotif can provide a *only a small enhancement of the HB energy* of some 20-40% with a moderate O...O shortening from 2.75 to 2.62 Å.

# THE INTERPRETATION OF CHEMICAL LEITMOTIFS: THE PA/pK<sub>a</sub> EQUALIZATION PRINCIPLE

## Chemical Leitmotif # 1:

**(+/-)CAHB**

**Positive/Negative Charge-Assisted HB**

**Direct Acid-Base PA/pK<sub>a</sub> Matching**

**R<sup>-1/2</sup>-D...H<sup>+</sup>....A<sup>1/2</sup>-R**

The basis for the interpretation of the mechanism of action of chemical leitmotifs is given by the **(+/-)CAHB chemical leitmotif**.  
Acid-base pairs having a **pK<sub>a</sub> matching within 0-2 units** are all known to give very strong HBs.

But what about the other leitmotifs?

Why the weak water-water HB (of some 5 kcal/mol) can be transformed,  
**by both acquiring and loosing a proton,**  
into HBs with energies as large as 30-31 kcal/mol?

And why the weak R-O-H...O=CR<sub>2</sub> alcohol-ketone HB may undergo a fourfold increase of its energy when the donor and acceptors atoms  
**are connected through an ...O=C-C=C-OH...  
π-conjugated group?**

*The reason is always PA/pK<sub>a</sub> matching, all **chemical leitmotifs** being **simple artifices that molecules can use to obliterate the normally very large ΔpK<sub>a</sub> between HB donor and acceptor atoms.***

# THE INTERPRETATION OF CHEMICAL LEITMOTIFS: THE PA/pK<sub>a</sub> EQUALIZATION PRINCIPLE

Chemical Leitmotif # 2:

**(-)CAHB**

**Negative Charge-Assisted HB**

**Acid-Base PA/pK<sub>a</sub> Matching by Proton Loss**

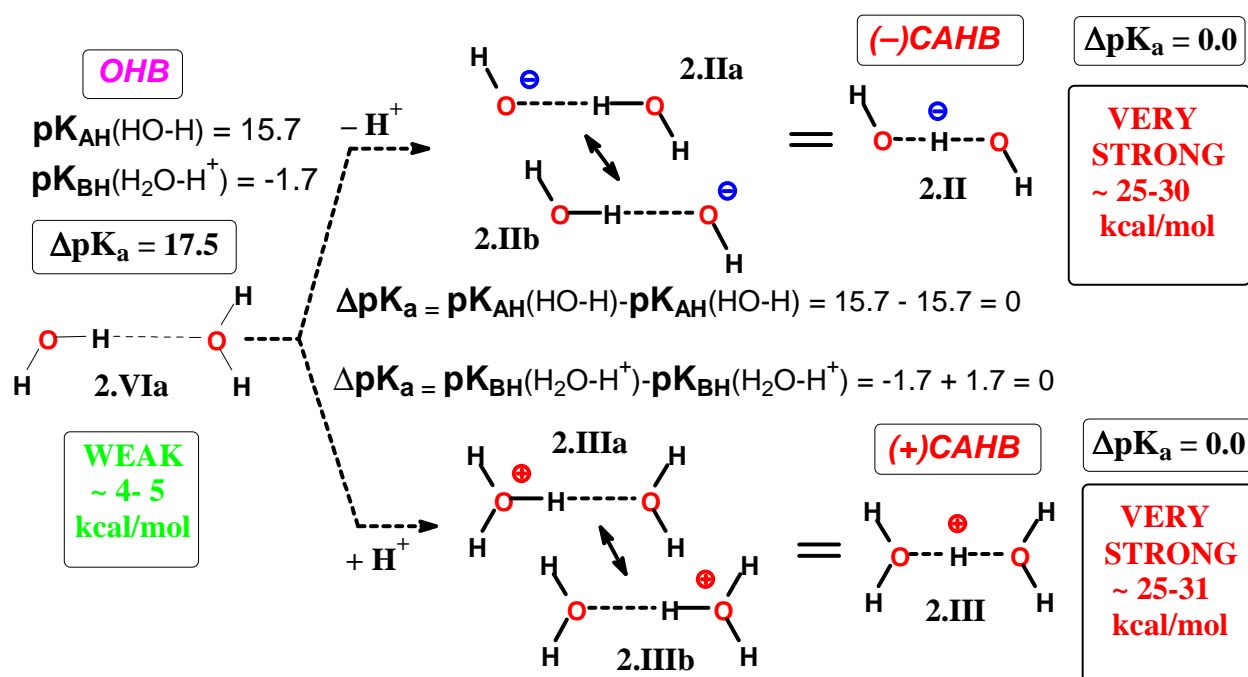


Chemical Leitmotif # 3:

**(+)CAHB**

**Positive Charge-Assisted HB**

**Acid-Base PA/pK<sub>a</sub> Matching by Proton Gain**



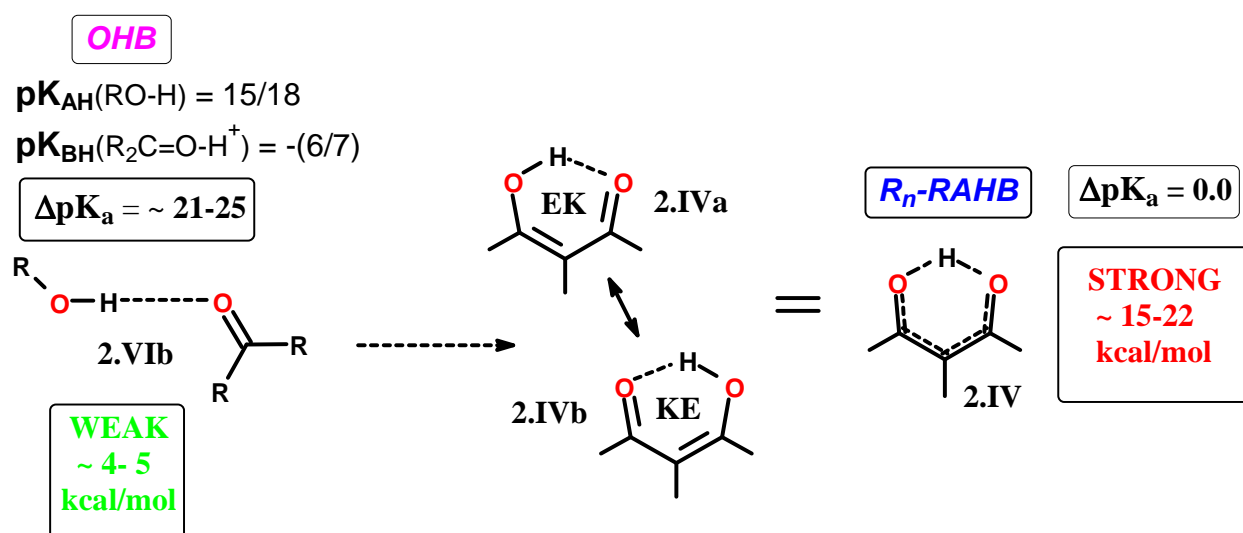
# THE INTERPRETATION OF CHEMICAL LEITMOTIFS: THE PA/pK<sub>a</sub> EQUALIZATION PRINCIPLE

## Chemical Leitmotif # 4:

### RAHB

#### Resonance-Assisted or $\pi$ -Bond Cooperative HB

#### PA/pK<sub>a</sub> Matching by $\pi$ -Conjugated-Bond Polarization



## ASSESSING A COMPREHENSIVE HB MODEL 1

### EXPERIMENTAL FACTS ON THE HB STRENGTH

It is of fundamental importance to realize that  
*there are not strong or weak HB in themselves.*

Rather, *any given D-H...A system*  
may form HBs having a  
*wide range of strengths, lengths, symmetries and proton locations,*  
the two extremes of this range being  
represented by

1. *the weak, long, dissymmetric and proton-outcentered HB of electrostatic nature*  
and the
2. *the very strong, very short, symmetric and proton-centered HB classifiable as a true 3-center-4-electron covalent bond.*

### THE INDEPENDENT VARIABLE DRIVING THE HB STRENGTH

We now know that *the driving variable* which transforms  
very strong into weak HBs is  
*dimensionally a free enthalpy*  
and is represented by the  
*difference between the Proton Affinities ( $\Delta PA$ )*  
*or related*  
*Acid-Base Dissociation Constants ( $\Delta pK_a$ )*  
*of the Donor and Acceptor moieties.*

### LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE

*The strongest HB formed by any given D-H...A system occurs only when*  
 *$\Delta PA$  (or  $\Delta pK_a$ ) approaches zero.*

This limit corresponds to the condition by which  
*the proton is equally shared by the two groups*  
so that the HB is transformed from a weak electrostatic interaction into a  
*strong proton-centred 3-centre-4-electron  $R-D^{1/2-} \cdots H \cdots^{1/2+} A-R$  covalent bond.*



## ASSESSING A COMPREHENSIVE HB MODEL 2

### THE “PROTON-AFFINITY EQUALIZATION” PRINCIPLE

Let's consider a generic HB of the form



where **D** and **:A** are the *HB Donor* and *Acceptor Atoms*  
and **R**<sub>1</sub> and **R**<sub>2</sub> any, however complex, molecular fragment.

*Having fixed the atomic nature of D and A*, and making allowance  
for specific effects of **steric** stretching or compression,

*HB STRENGTH* (HB dissociation energy),  
*GEOMETRY* (D...A, D-H, H...A distances and D-H-A angle)  
and *SYMMETRY* (linear or bent, proton-centered or less)

### ARE COMPLETELY DETERMINED

by the *DIFFERENCE OF TWO FREE ENTHALPIES* which  
may be equally related to *Proton Affinities (PA)*

$$\Delta PA = PA(\mathbf{R}_1\text{-D}^-) - PA(\mathbf{R}_2\text{-A})$$

or *Acid-Base Dissociation Constants (pK<sub>a</sub>)*

$$\Delta pK_a = pK_{AH}(\mathbf{R}_1\text{-D-H}) - pK_{BH}(\mathbf{R}_2\text{-A-H}^+).$$

*The strongest possible HB (the intrinsic HB)*  
which may be formed in any given H-bonded system  
is always associated with the condition

$$\Delta PA \text{ or } \Delta pK_a = 0$$

## FINAL CONSIDERATIONS - CRITERIA FOR A CLASSIFICATION OF THE CHEMICAL LEITMOTIFS

There are three different ways for subdividing chemical leitmotifs:

### 1. BY THE STRENGTH OF THE HB FORMED

#### a) Strong and very strong HBs

- i) CL # 1: (+/-)CAHB, Positive/Negative Charge-Assisted HB
- j) CL # 2: (-)CAHB, Negative Charge-Assisted HB
- k) CL # 3: (+)CAHB, Positive Charge-Assisted HB
- l) CL # 4: RAHB, Resonance-Assisted or  $\pi$ -Bond Cooperative HB

#### b) Mid-strong HB

- i) CL # 5: PAHB, Polarization-Assisted or  $\sigma$ -Bond Cooperative HB

#### c) Weak HB

- i) CL # 6: OHB or IHB, Ordinary or Isolated HB

### 2. BY THEIR MECHANISM OF HB STRENGTHENING

#### a) Charge-Assisted HBs

- i) CL # 1: (+/-)CAHB, Direct Acid-Base PA/pK<sub>a</sub> Matching
- j) CL # 2: (-)CAHB, Acid-Base PA/pK<sub>a</sub> Matching by Proton Loss
- k) CL # 3: (+)CAHB, Acid-Base PA/pK<sub>a</sub> Matching by Proton Gain

#### b) $\Pi/\Sigma$ -Bond Polarization-Assisted HBs

- i) CL # 4: RAHB, PA/pK<sub>a</sub> Matching by  $\pi$ -Conjugated-Bond Polarization
- j) CL # 5: PAHB, PA/pK<sub>a</sub> Matching by  $\sigma$ -Conjugated-Bond Polarization

#### c) Neither Charged- nor $\Pi/\Sigma$ -Bond Polarization-Assisted HB

- i) CL # 6: OHB or IHB, No PA/pK<sub>a</sub> Matching

## FINAL CONSIDERATIONS - CRITERIA FOR A CLASSIFICATION OF THE CHEMICAL LEITMOTIFS

3) BY THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE  $\Delta P_A/\Delta pK_a$  EQUALIZATION PRINCIPLE

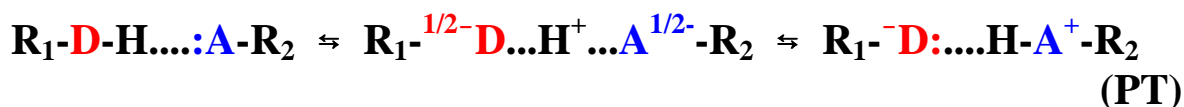
### a) Proton-Transfer HBs (Class PT)

- i) **CL # 1: (+/-)CAHB, Positive/Negative Charge-Assisted HB (Reaction A)**
- j) **CL # 6: OHB or IHB, Ordinary or Isolated HB (Reaction A)**

### b) Proton-Shared HBs (Class PS)

- i) **CL # 2: (-)CAHB, Negative Charge-Assisted HB (Reaction B1)**
- j) **CL # 3: (+)CAHB, Positive Charge-Assisted HB (Reaction B2)**
- k) **CL # 4: RAHB, Resonance-Assisted or  $\pi$ -Bond Cooperative HB (Reaction B3)**
- l) **CL # 5: PAHB, Polarization-Assisted or  $\sigma$ -Bond Cooperative HB (Reaction B4)**

### *Class PT. Proton Transfer Reaction*



### *Class PS. Proton Sharing Reactions*

