

# Intermolecular Interactions and Thermodynamic Properties of 3,6-Diamino-1,2,4,5-tetrazine-1,4-dioxide Dimers: A Density Functional Theoretical Study

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## ABSTRACT

Three fully optimized structures of 3,6-diamino-1,2,4,5-tetrazine-1,4-dioxide (LAX-112) dimers have been obtained with the density functional theory (DFT) method at the B3LYP/6-311++G level. Vibrational frequency calculations were carried out to ascertain that each structure is a minimum (no imaginary frequencies). The intermolecular interaction energy is calculated with the basis set superposition error (BSSE) correction and zero point energy (ZPE) correction. The greatest corrected binding energy among the three dimers is  $-42.38 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ . The charge redistribution mainly occurs on the adjacent O(N).....H atoms between submolecules and the charge transfer between two subsystems is very small. Natural bond orbital (NBO) analysis was performed to reveal the origin of the interaction. Based on the vibrational analysis, the standard thermodynamic functions (heat capacities ( $C_p^o$ ), entropies ( $S_m^o$ ) and enthalpies ( $H_m^o$ )) and the changes of thermodynamic properties from the monomer to dimer with the temperature ranging from 200.00 K to 800.00 K have been obtained using statistical thermodynamics. The results show that the strong hydrogen bonds dominantly contribute to the dimers, while the bonding energies are not only determined by the hydrogen bonding. The dimerization process of dimer II can occur spontaneously at room temperature.

## KEYWORDS

3,6-Diamino-1,2,4,5-tetrazine-1,4-dioxide (LAX-112), intermolecular interaction, density functional theory (DFT), natural bond orbital (NBO) analysis, thermodynamic properties.

## 1. Introduction

Unlike the traditional energetic compounds, such as 2,4,6-trinitrotoluene (TNT) and hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine (RDX), which derive their energies from the oxidation of the carbon and hydrogen atoms in the molecules,<sup>1</sup> high-nitrogen heterocyclic materials (tetrazines, furazans, tetrazoles, etc.) typically have large positive heats of formation as their source of energy. They consist of a large number of energetic N–N and C–N bonds in their structures, and the contents of high nitrogen and low carbon hydrogen make them easily obtain oxygen balance. In addition, this kind of materials tends to have an additional benefit of being less toxic to users and the environment.<sup>2</sup> Tetrazine compounds are the typical high-nitrogen materials with a nitrogen content of 68.3 % in the tetrazine ring which is an effective structure unit in designing high energetic materials (HEMs). This kind of materials has a great deal of potential applications in the insensitive explosives, low signature propellants, gas generants and low-smoke pyrotechnics.<sup>3–7</sup> Owing to the gas production from decomposition in most cases, tetrazine compounds were considered as a potential formula in the eco-friendly pyrotechnics.<sup>8</sup>

EMs are an aggregative and mixed system and the study on intermolecular interactions of EMs has attracted a wide attention. Intermolecular forces have significant effects on many physical properties of EMs, such as diffusion, aggregation, density and detonation. In addition, intermolecular interactions are also

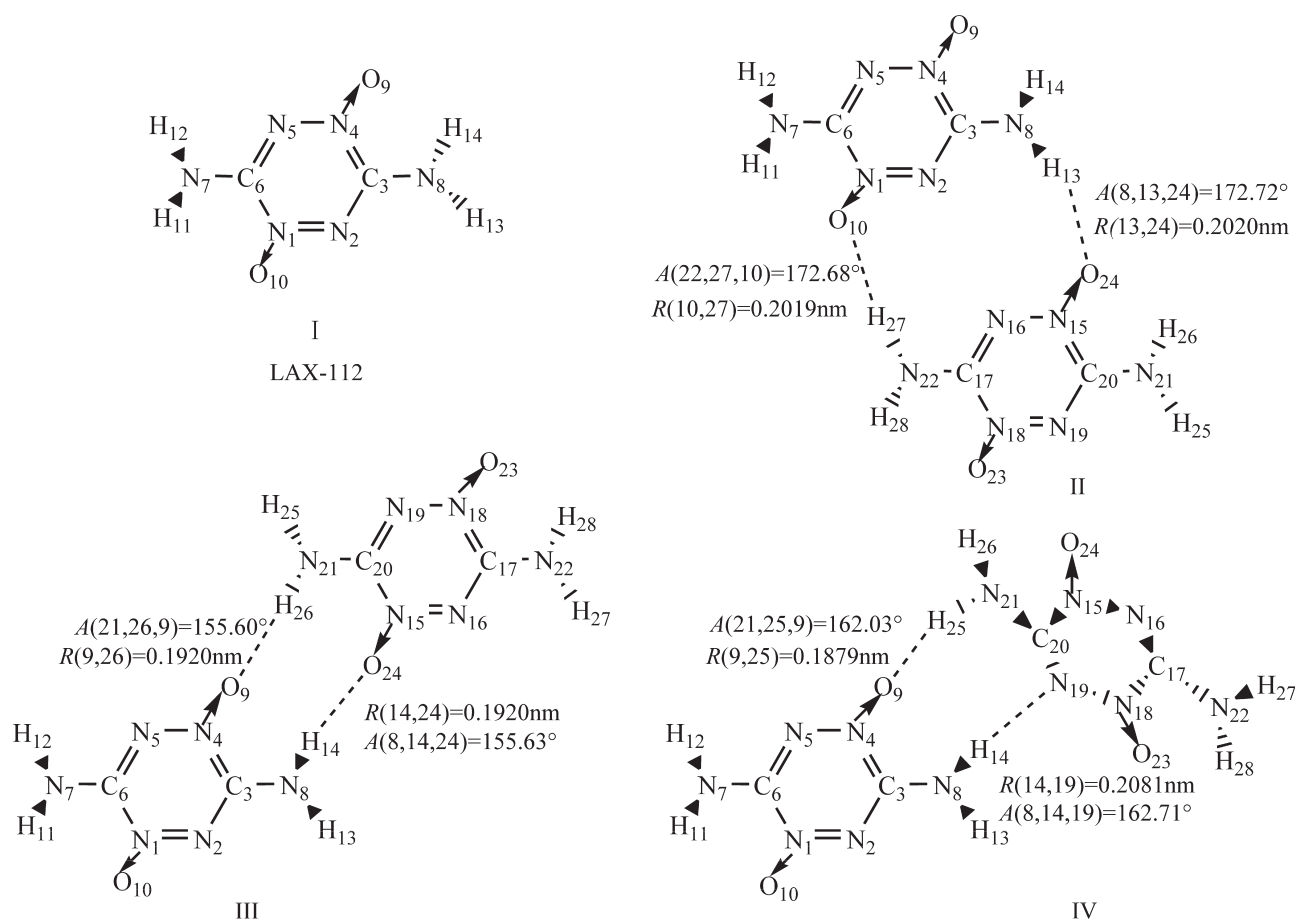
closely related with safety and mechanical properties of EMs. Therefore, there is an important academic and application significance to carry out studies on the intermolecular interactions of EMs. In recent years, the intermolecular interactions in a series of explosives have obtained some meaningful information<sup>9–18</sup> which is valuable for further study of EMs. The intermolecular interactions of 3,6-dihydrazino-1,2,4,5-tetrazine (DHT)<sup>19</sup> and 3,6-Diamino-1,2,4,5-tetrazine (DATZ)<sup>20</sup> were examined, which was found that the strong hydrogen bonds dominantly contribute to the dimers.

3,6-diamino-1,2,4,5-tetrazine-1,4-dioxide (LAX-112) is one of the early used insensitive tetrazine explosives<sup>21–30</sup> with its nitrogen content, enthalpy of formation, density, critical diameter of 58.3 %,  $164 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ,  $1.834 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ , and less than 6 mm respectively. Its detonation velocity and detonation pressure are  $8.26 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and  $24.2 \text{ GPa}$  respectively. The enthalpy of formation, detonation velocity and detonation pressure of TATB (1,3,5-triamino-2,4,6-trinitrobenzene) are  $140 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ,  $7.62 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and  $25.9 \text{ GPa}$  respectively. Therefore, LAX-112 has a better explosion performance than TATB.<sup>22,31–34</sup> The synthesis, thermal behaviour on LAX-112 were reported,<sup>21–30</sup> In this paper, we theoretically investigated the intermolecular interaction and thermodynamic properties of LAX-112 dimers.

## 2. Computational Methods

The geometries of LAX-112 monomer and all its possible stable dimers as obtained using the Chem3D software package were

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**Figure 1** Atomic numbering, optimized structures of monomer and dimers of LAX-112.

fully optimized by the Bery method<sup>35</sup> at the DFT(B3LYP) level with 6-311++G\*\*. Single point energy calculations were also performed at the MP2/6-311++G\*\* and B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ levels on the dimer structures obtained at the B3LYP/6-311++G\*\* level. Natural bond orbital analysis and frequency calculations were carried out on each optimized structure. Thermodynamic data and their changes upon dimerizing were derived from statistical thermodynamics<sup>36</sup> based on the frequency calculation. The intermolecular interaction energies of the studied dimers were corrected both with basis set superposition error (BSSE) and zero point energies (ZPE). All these calculations have been carried out with the Gaussian 98<sup>37</sup> program using the default Gaussian convergence criteria.

It has been suggested that the M06-2X, M05-2X, M06-HF, and M06 functionals are the best functionals for the study of non-covalent interactions<sup>38</sup>, therefore, the geometries of the monomer and the three dimers were also fully optimized at M06-2X/6-311++G\*\* by Gaussian 09<sup>39</sup>. The interaction energies were compared with the above methods.

The intermolecular interaction energies of (LAX-112)<sub>2</sub> were evaluated from the energy difference between the dimer and monomer (Eq. 1).

$$\Delta E = E_{A-B} - E_A - E_B, \quad (1)$$

where  $E_{A(B)}$  and  $E_{A-B}$  are the total energies of the monomer and dimer (LAX-112)<sub>2</sub>, respectively. The zero point energy corrections (ZPEC) are adopted in the present work based on Eq. 2:

$$\Delta E_{(ZPE)} = E_{A-B(ZPE)} - E_{A(ZPE)} - E_{B(ZPE)} \quad (2)$$

where  $E_{A(B)(ZPE)}$  and  $E_{A-B(ZPE)}$  are the zero point energies of the

monomer and dimer (LAX-112)<sub>2</sub>, respectively. To correct for the basis set superposition error, the Boys and Bernardi's counterpoise procedure (CP)<sup>40-42</sup> is employed as follows:

$$\Delta E_{(BSSE)} = E_{A-B} - E^{A-B}_{A'} - E^{A-B}_{B'} \quad (3)$$

where  $E^{A-B}_{A'(B')}$  is the calculated energy of the LAX-112 monomer A or B with its geometry in (LAX-112)<sub>2</sub> but using the basis functions of the full dimer. Finally the corrected interaction energies  $\Delta E_{corr}$  (Eq. 4) were calculated by addition of  $\Delta E_{(ZPE)}$  and  $\Delta E_{(BSSE)}$  to the interaction energy term (Eq.(1))

$$\Delta E_{corr} = \Delta E + \Delta E_{(ZPE)} + \Delta E_{(BSSE)} \quad (4)$$

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Optimized Structures

Three stable structures of LAX-112 dimers are presented in Fig. 1.

In the case of dimers II-IV, each submolecule consists of one donor atom and one acceptor atom. Dimers II and III are symmetrical and dimer IV is unsymmetrical. There are two hydrogen bonding interactions of N22-H27...O10 and N8-H13...O24 in dimer II. In dimer III, hydrogen bonding interactions are N21-H26...O9 and N8-H14...O24 which consist of a ten-membered ring. The H-bonding lengths usually determine the binding energies when the intermolecular contacts are similar. Judged by the intermolecular distance, as shown in Figure 1, the strength of interactions may be in the order: III>II.

Some geometrical parameters are collected in Table 1. The monomer and the dimers differ in the following aspects: (a) For dimer II, the lengths of N1-O10 and N15-O24 increase by 2.0

**Table 1** The optimized bond lengths (pm) of LAX-112 and (LAX-112)<sub>2</sub> at B3LYP/6-311++G\*\* level<sup>a</sup>

Parameters	I	II	III	IV
R(1,2)	132.7	132.4	132.3	132.3
R(1,6)	138.7	136.9	139.0	139.1
R(1,10)	126.4	128.3	126.1	126.0
R(2,3)	131.9	131.7	132.8	132.9
R(3,4)	138.7	140.6	138.4	138.4
R(3,8)	135.2	134.0	134.4	133.9
R(4,5)	132.7	132.1	132.7	132.6
R(4,9)	126.4	125.7	127.2	127.4
R(5,6)	131.9	132.7	131.6	131.6
R(6,7)	135.2	135.5	135.4	135.4
R(7,11)	101.0	101.0	101.0	101.0
R(7,12)	100.7	100.7	100.7	100.7
R(8,13)	100.7	102.2	100.8	100.7
R(8,14)	101.0	101.0	101.8	101.7
R(15,16)	(132.7)	132.4	132.7	13.2
R(15,20)	(138.7)	136.9	138.4	140.0
R(15,24)	(126.4)	128.3	127.2	126.0
R(16,17)	(131.9)	131.7	131.6	132.4
R(17,18)	(138.7)	140.6	139.0	137.5
R(17,22)	(135.2)	134.0	135.4	135.5
R(18,19)	(132.7)	132.1	132.3	133.2
R(18,23)	(126.4)	125.7	126.1	127.1
R(19,20)	(131.9)	132.7	132.8	132.2
R(20,21)	(135.2)	135.6.0	134.4	133.7
R(21,26)	(101.0)	101.0	101.8	100.9
R(21,25)	(100.7)	100.7	100.8	101.7
R(22,27)	(100.7)	102.2	100.7	100.7
R(22,28)	(101.0)	101.0	101.0	101.0

<sup>a</sup>Data in brackets are also the bond lengths of isolated LAX-112 molecule and  $R(x,y)$  denotes intermolecular distances.

pm, the N8–H13 and N22–H27 lengths increase by 1.5 pm, the N4–C3 and N18–C17 increase by 1.9 pm, while the N1–C6 and N15–C20 lengths decrease by 1.8 pm, the N8–C3 and N22–C17 lengths decrease by 1.2 pm. (b) For dimer IV, the lengths of N4–O9, N18–O23, N21–H25, N2–C3 and N15–C20 increase by 1.0 pm, 0.7 pm, 1.1 pm, 1.0 pm and 1.3 pm, respectively, while

N8–C3, N21–C20 and N18–C17 decrease by 1.3 pm, 1.5 pm and 1.2 pm, respectively. (c) For dimer III, the bond lengths change less than those of the other two dimers. The lengths of N4–O9, N15–O24, N8–H14 and N21–H26 increase by 0.8 pm, the N2–C3 and N19–C20 lengths increase by 0.9 pm, while the lengths of N8–C3 and N21–C20 decrease by 0.8 pm. (d) The changes of angles are within 4.6° and those of the dihedrals are small (the data was omitted in the table) indicating that the intermolecular interactions have little influence on angle-torsion of the monomer and inner rotation of a single bond.

### 3.2 Binding Energies

Table 2 shows both the uncorrected and corrected binding energies. There are no imaginary frequencies for any of the structures in Table 2, indicating that the structures in Figure 1 are indeed the minima on their potential energy surfaces.

To determine the appropriateness of the chosen basis set (6-311++G\*\*) for the calculations, we have also determined the binding energies with the aug-cc-pVDZ basis set. The maximum differences in the values of  $(\Delta E)_c$  caused by using the two basis sets are 2.66 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>. The corrected binding energies in Table 2 give the same stability order for the dimers with 6-311++G\*\* and aug-cc-pVDZ, suggesting that the energies are close to the basis set limit. Furthermore, to confirm the reliability of the calculated results, single point energies were calculated with the MP2 method using the B3LYP/6-311++G\*\* optimized structures. The differences in values of  $(\Delta E)_c$  caused by using these two methods are not large. However, the order of  $(\Delta E)_c$  is different. For the H-bonded (LAX-112)<sub>2</sub>, the values of  $(\Delta E)_c$  calculated using B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ are relatively close to those using B3LYP/6-311++G\*\*. Moreover, when the intermolecular interactions are strong, it is very reliable to calculate binding energies by using the DFT method. The calculated intermolecular interaction energies with MP2 are usually larger than those using B3LYP and the same basis set.<sup>43</sup> On the contrary, the calculated energy for structure IV with MP2/6-311++G\*\* is lower than that with B3LYP. The calculated energies for the three dimers at the M062X/6-311++G\*\* level are a little higher than those at B3LYP/6-311++G\*\*, however the stability order at these two levels are the same. Therefore, the interaction energies calcu-

**Table 2** Total energy, zero point energy and binding energy (kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) calculated by different methods.<sup>a</sup>

Methods	Energy	I	II	III	IV
B3LYP/6-311++G**	$E$	-1463933.63	-2927920.77	-2927908.71	-2927914.93
	$\Delta E_{ZPE}$	/	5.48	4.38	3.73
	$\Delta E_{BSSE}$	/	5.66	4.07	5.08
	$\Delta E$	/	-53.52	-41.46	-47.68
	$\Delta E_c$	/	-47.86	-37.39	-42.60
	$\Delta E_{c,ZPEC}$	/	-42.38	-33.01	-38.87
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	$E$	-1463748.39	-2927544.90	-2927531.96	-2927540.99
	$\Delta E_c$	/	-48.85	-38.01	-45.26
MP2/6-311++G**	$E$	-1455567.54	-2911192.03	-2911180.50	-2911179.95
	$\Delta E_c$	/	-50.18	-39.50	-37.69
M062X/6-311++G**	$E$	-1463334.52	-2926741.76	-2926724.332	-2926731.452
	$\Delta E_{ZPE}$	/	5.65	5.03	4.58
	$\Delta E_{BSSE}$	/	6.89	6.11	5.76
	$\Delta E$	/	-72.72	-55.29	-62.41
	$\Delta E_c$	/	-65.51	-49.42	-55.69
	$\Delta E_{c,ZPEC}$	/	-58.62	-43.31	-49.93

<sup>a</sup> $E$ : the total energy;  $\Delta E_{ZPE}$ : the energy corrected with zero point energy corrections (ZPEC);  $\Delta E_{BSSE}$ : the energy corrected with basis set superposition error (BSSE);  $\Delta E$ : the binding energy;  $\Delta E_c = \Delta E + \Delta E_{BSSE}$ ;  $\Delta E_{c,ZPEC} = \Delta E + \Delta E_{ZPE} + \Delta E_{BSSE}$

**Table 3** The calculated natural atomic charges (e) of LAX-112 and (LAX-112)<sub>2</sub> at the B3LYP/6-311++G\*\*level.<sup>a</sup>

Atomic	I	II	III	IV
N1	0.1981	0.1845	0.2086	0.2109
N2	-0.2850	-0.2818	-0.2853	-0.2849
C3	0.5179	0.5296	0.5279	0.5282
N4	0.1981	0.2137	0.1962	0.1946
N5	-0.2850	-0.2825	-0.2792	-0.2775
C6	0.5179	0.5187	0.5152	0.5138
N7	-0.7790	-0.7793	-0.7808	-0.7813
N8	-0.7790	-0.7783	-0.7711	-0.7710
O9	-0.4874	-0.4637	-0.5442	-0.5579
O10	-0.4874	-0.5588	-0.4763	-0.4731
H11	0.4274	0.4250	0.4264	0.4263
H12	0.4081	0.4065	0.4071	0.4071
H13	0.4081	0.4442	0.4060	0.4140
H14	0.4274	0.4223	0.4494	0.4488
N15	(0.1981)	0.1844	0.1962	0.2069
N16	(-0.2850)	-0.2818	-0.2792	-0.2801
C17	(0.5179)	0.5297	0.5152	0.1937
N18	(0.1981)	0.2137	0.2086	0.5139
N19	(-0.2850)	-0.2825	-0.2852	-0.3307
C20	(0.5179)	0.5186	0.5279	0.5381
N21	(-0.7790)	-0.7793	-0.7711	-0.7728
N22	(-0.7790)	-0.7783	-0.7808	-0.7803
O23	(-0.4874)	-0.4637	-0.4763	-0.5186
O24	(-0.4874)	-0.5588	-0.5441	-0.4728
H25	(0.4081)	0.4065	0.4060	0.4462
H26	(0.4081)	0.4249	0.4494	0.4265
H27	(0.4274)	0.4442	0.4071	0.4068
H28	(0.4274)	0.4222	0.4264	0.4251

<sup>a</sup>Data in brackets are also the charges of isolated LAX-112 molecule.

lated with B3LYP is reasonably reliable for these H-bonded complexes. (Our discussion is still based on the results using B3LYP/6-311++G\*\*.)

The corrected binding energy for dimer II is  $-42.38 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , the binding energy for each hydrogen bond is  $-21.19 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ . This value is larger than the best experimentally estimated dissociation energy ( $15 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) of the water dimer,<sup>44</sup> indicating that the hydrogen bonding is strong. The binding energy for dimer III is the lowest among the three dimers ( $-33.01 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ), showing that the N(N19) atom in N $\rightarrow$ O group acts as a moderate hydrogen donor. Both the uncorrected and corrected binding energies indicate that the stability of the dimers is in the order III < IV < II. This order is consistent with the proposed order based on the mean intermolecular distances.

### 3.3 Atomic Charges and Charge Transfer

Table 3 lists the atomic NBO charges of LAX-112 and its dimers. Compared to the monomer, charges on H14 and H26 of dimer III increase by 0.0220 e, while charges on O9 and O24 decrease by 0.0567 e, indicating the effect of charge transfer by molecular contacting. There is no net charge transfer between the two submolecules of III due to its symmetric structure and the same distances of hydrogen bonds O9.....H26 and O24.....H14. Similarly, there is hardly any charge transfer between the two submolecules of the symmetrical dimer II. Charges on H14, C20 and H25 of dimer IV increase by 0.0214 e, 0.0202 e and 0.0381 e, respectively, while charges on O9, N19 and O23 decrease by 0.0705 e, 0.0457 e and 0.0312 e, respectively. The net result of charge transfer in dimer IV is that a submolecule acquires 0.0020 e. The dipole moments of LAX-112 and its dimers (II, III and IV) are 0.00, 0.00, 0.00 and 1.31 Debye. The dipole moments

**Table 4** Results for (LAX-112)<sub>2</sub> at the B3LYP/6-311++G\*\*level using NBO analysis.<sup>a</sup>

Dimer	Donor NBO(i)	Acceptor NBO(j)	E/kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>
II	LP (1) O10	BD*(1) N22- H27	8.91
	LP (2) O10	BD*(1) N22- H27	28.91
	LP (1) O24	BD*(1) N 8- H13	8.87
	LP (2) O24	BD*(1) N 8- H13	28.83
III	LP (1) O 9	BD*(1) N21- H26	20.50
	LP (2) O 9	BD*(1) N21- H26	8.37
	LP (3) O 9	BD*(1) N21- H26	9.67
	LP (1) O24	BD*(1) N 8- H14	20.50
	LP (2) O24	BD*(1) N 8- H14	8.37
	LP (3) O24	BD*(1) N 8- H14	9.67
IV	LP (1) O 9	BD*(1) N21- H25	27.78
	LP (3) O 9	BD*(1) N21- H25	11.05
	LP (1) N19	BD*(1) N 8- H14	36.99

<sup>a</sup>E denotes the stabilization energy, BD\* denotes antibonding orbital, LP denotes lone-pair.

For BD\*: (1) denotes  $\pi$  orbital.

For LP: (1), (2) and (3) denote the first, the second and the third lone pair electron, respectively.

Only the stable energies over  $4.18 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  are listed.

are zero for LAX-112, dimer II and III, due to its centrosymmetric structure.

### 3.4 Natural Bond Orbital Analysis

Table 4 summarizes the second-order perturbative estimates of 'donor-acceptor' (bond-antibond) interactions in the NBO basis for all the dimers. This is carried out by examining all possible interactions between 'filled' (donor) Lewis-type NBOs and 'empty' (acceptor) non-Lewis NBOs, and estimating their stabilization energy by second order perturbation theory.<sup>45-47</sup> The stabilization energies  $E(2)$  are proportional to the NBO interaction. When a donor and an acceptor belong to different submolecules in a cluster, it is called an intermolecular NBO interaction. It is these that reveal the origin of the intermolecular interactions.

As can be seen from the intermolecular NBO interaction in Table 4, the main NBOs interacting in dimers II and III are the lone pairs on oxygen atoms of one submolecule acting as the donor and the N-H antibond of another submolecule as the acceptor. Similarly, the main NBOs interacting in dimer IV is the lone pairs on the oxygen atoms and nitrogen atom of one submolecule acting as the donor and the N-H antibond of another submolecule as the acceptor. The total stabilization energies are over  $60 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , indicating strong hydrogen bonds. Although the stability sequence does not simply depend on the largest or the main stabilization energy, it can be concluded that the order of the stabilization energies of dimers is III > IV > II based on the total stabilization energies (II,  $75.52 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ; III,  $77.08 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ; and IV,  $75.82 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ), which is in agreement with the sequence of the hydrogen bond lengths.

### 3.5 Thermodynamic Properties

On the basis of vibrational analysis and statistical thermodynamics, the standard thermodynamic functions, heat capacities ( $c_p^0$ ), entropies ( $S_m^0$ ) and enthalpies ( $H_m^0$ ), were obtained and listed in Table 5.

Both the entropy and the enthalpy change for the dimerization process are negative within the temperature range of 200.00 to 800.00 K. The intermolecular interaction is, therefore, an exothermic process accompanied by a decrease of the entropy.



**Table 5** The thermodynamic properties of LAX-112 and (LAX-112)<sub>2</sub> at different temperatures at the B3LYP/6-311++G\*\* level.<sup>a</sup>

Structure	T/K	$c_p^o/\text{J mol}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$	$S_m^o/\text{J mol}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$	$H_m^o/\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$	$\Delta S_T/\text{J mol}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$	$\Delta H_T/\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$	$\Delta G_T/\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$
I	200.00	111.73	326.55	12.81	/	/	/
	298.15	152.03	379.04	25.85	/	/	/
	400.00	184.29	428.42	43.05	/	/	/
	600.00	227.87	512.13	84.63	/	/	/
	800.00	254.51	581.62	133.07	/	/	/
II	200.00	228.83	503.71	26.14	-149.39	-45.60	-15.72
	298.15	311.97	611.27	52.85	-146.81	-44.97	-1.19
	400.00	378.86	712.71	88.18	-144.13	-44.04	13.61
	600.00	468.83	884.90	173.72	-139.36	-41.66	41.96
	800.00	523.72	1027.88	273.39	-135.36	-38.87	69.42
III	200.00	232.10	515.92	26.59	-137.18	-34.62	-7.18
	298.15	314.69	624.70	53.60	-133.38	-33.69	6.08
	400.00	380.91	726.84	89.17	-130.00	-32.52	19.48
	600.00	469.99	899.67	175.02	-124.59	-29.83	44.93
	800.00	524.33	1042.91	274.87	-120.33	-26.86	69.41
IV	200.00	233.39	513.97	26.75	-139.13	-41.06	-13.23
	298.15	315.63	623.21	53.87	-134.87	-40.02	0.19
	400.00	381.55	725.59	89.52	-131.25	-38.77	13.73
	600.00	470.32	898.61	175.47	-125.65	-35.98	39.41
	800.00	524.53	1041.93	275.36	-121.31	-32.97	64.08

<sup>a</sup>  $\Delta S_T = (S_T^o)_{\text{dimer}} - 2(S_T^o)_{\text{monomer}}$ ,  $\Delta H_T = (H_T^o + E_{\text{HF}} + E_{\text{ZPE}})_{\text{dimer}} - \Sigma(H_T^o + E_{\text{HF}} + E_{\text{ZPE}})_{\text{monomer}}$ ,  $\Delta G_T = \Delta H_T - T\Delta S_T$ ,  $T$  denotes temperature.

The values of  $c_p^o$  for all the dimers are close to each other at the same temperatures, with values larger than double  $c_p^o$  for the monomer by 5.37–15.51 J mol<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>. The values of  $\Delta H_T$  for each dimer at the same temperature give the same sequence  $\Delta H_{T,\text{I}} < \Delta H_{T,\text{II}} < \Delta H_{T,\text{III}}$  as the binding energies. The change in Gibbs free energies ( $\Delta G_T = \Delta H_T - T\Delta S_T$ ) during the dimerization processes for the three dimers are negative under 200.0 K. Therefore, these dimers can be spontaneously produced from the isolated monomer under 200 K, and dimer II can be spontaneously produced at room temperature. The stability order of the dimers under 600 K is II>IV>III, based on the values of  $\Delta G_T$ . However,  $\Delta G_T$  gives a different stability order above 600 K, since the value of  $\Delta H_T$  is less sensitive to temperature than that of  $T\Delta S$ , and the effect of temperature upon  $\Delta G_T$  is derived from the contributions of  $T\Delta S$  term for the same dimer. The  $\Delta G_T$  value increases as temperature increases for each dimer, thus the interactions weaken as the temperature increases.

### 3.6 The Properties of Detonation Velocity and Pressure

Detonation velocity ( $D$ ) and detonation pressure ( $P$ ) are the most important targets in comparing the detonation characteristics of energetic materials.  $D$  and  $P$  of an explosive can be predicted with the nitrogen equivalent equation (NE equation) shown as equations (5)–(7).<sup>48</sup>

$$\Sigma N = 100 \Sigma x_i N_i / M \quad (5)$$

$$D = (0.690 + 1.160\rho_0) \Sigma N \quad (6)$$

$$P = 1.092(\rho_0 \Sigma N)^2 - 0.574, \quad (7)$$

in which  $\Sigma N$  is the nitrogen equivalent of the detonation products;  $N_i$  is the nitrogen equivalent index of a certain detonation product;  $x_i$  is the moles of a certain detonation product produced by a mole of explosive;  $\rho_0$  is the density of an explosive (the densities

of the monomer and the dimer II were obtained from the molar mass divided by the average molar volume. The average molar volumes of the compounds were obtained from the statistical average values of 100 molar volumes. The volume of each molecule, defined as the volume inside a contour of 0.001 e/bohr<sup>3</sup> electron density,<sup>49</sup> was calculated by the Monte Carlo method in the Gaussian 09 program package<sup>39</sup>).

The detonation products produced by general explosives together with their nitrogen equivalent indices are listed in Table 6. According to the order of H<sub>2</sub>-CO in forming detonation products, the detonation products of LAX-112 are calculated as follows:



According to Eq. (5), in which  $M = 144.09$ , total nitrogen equivalents of LAX-112 are obtained through the nitrogen equivalent indices of the detonation products in Table 5:

$$\Sigma N = 100 \times (2 \times 0.54 + 2 \times 0.15 + 3 \times 1) / 144.09 = 3.040$$

According to Eqs. (6) and (7), where  $\rho = 1.615 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  which was calculated based on the B3LYP/6-311++G\*\* calculations, the detonation pressure ( $D$ ) and detonation velocity ( $P$ ) can be obtained as follows:

$$D = (0.690 + 1.160\rho_0) \Sigma N = (0.690 + 1.160 \times 1.615) \times 3.040 = 7.79 \text{ km s}^{-1}$$

$$P = 1.092(\rho_0 \Sigma N)^2 - 0.574 = 1.092 \times (1.615 \times 3.040)^2 - 0.574 = 25.7 \text{ GPa}$$

By the method above, the data of the detonation pressure and detonation velocity of II which is the most stable dimer are shown in the Table 7.

As indicated above, the calculated detonation velocity and pressure of LAX-112 monomer are 7.79 km s<sup>-1</sup> and 25.7 GPa

**Table 6** Nitrogen equivalents of different detonation products.

Detonation product	N <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub> O	CO	CO <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>	C	H <sub>2</sub>
Nitrogen equivalent index	1	0.54	0.78	1.35	0.5	0.15	0.290

**Table 7** The average molar volume  $V$ , theoretical densities  $\rho$ , the detonation velocity ( $D$ ) and pressure ( $P$ ) of I and II.

Compound	$V/\text{cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$	$\rho/\text{g cm}^{-3}$	$D/\text{km s}^{-1}$	$P/\text{GPa}$
I	89.207	1.615	7.79	25.7
II	171.608	1.679	8.02	27.9

respectively, which are very close to the data reported by literature. The detonation velocity and pressure of dimer II are 8.02 km s<sup>-1</sup> and 27.9 GP which are a little higher than those of the monomer. Therefore, the formation of the dimer increases the density and detonation properties of the compound.

#### 4. Conclusions

From the DFT calculations reported above, the main conclusions can be obtained as follows:

- (1) Both the binding energies and the mean intermolecular distances indicate that the stability of the dimers is in the order III < IV < II.
- (2) The average binding energy of each hydrogen bond in the most stable dimer (Dimer II) is -21.19 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, which is larger than that of the water dimer, indicating that the hydrogen bonding is strong.
- (3) Dimerization of LAX-112 is an exothermic process along with the decrease of entropies, the difference of the free energy between the monomer and dimers decrease as the temperature decreases. The process of forming the most stable dimer (dimer II) from the monomer is spontaneous at room temperature.
- (4) The formation of the dimer can increase the density and detonation properties of a compound.

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