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Quantum Chemistry Study & Evaluation of Basis Set Effects on
Prediction of Amino Acids Properties:

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ABSTRACT

The potential energy surface of gaseous glycine determined years ago in the ab initio B3LYP/6-311++G** calculations is composed of thirteen stable conformers. We performed the ab initio molecular orbital calculations as the starting point to carry out a force field and normal coordinate calculation on the most stable conformer of non-zwitterionic glycine [conformer (I)]. The calculations were carried out at different levels of theory using two methods, namely, the Hartree-Fock (HF) and the Möller-Plesset second order perturbation (MP2) method (including electron correlation), and using the Pople's basis sets, namely, STO-nG (n=2, 3 and 6), 3-21G, 6-21G, 6-31G, 6-311G and also cc-pVnZ to obtain HF limit. This different basis sets accompanied with the different combinations of diffuse and polarization functions were used. Each level of theory, with no symmetry restrictions, did fully optimization of neutral glycine. The atomic charge distributions were obtained using the Mulliken population analysis. The structural characteristics such as the total energies, the complete optimized geometrical parameters including bond lengths, normal and torsion angles, as well as dipole moments, rotational constants, atomic charge distributions, vibrational frequencies and IR intensities of the equilibrium conformation of glycine in gas phase were calculated at a wide range of the levels of theory -as mentioned above- and the results were compared together and with HF limit and the experimental data to examine the reliability of the applied basis sets and to introduce the most efficient ones. We also assayed how the strength of internal H-bonds depended on the variant parameters of basis set via the calculated atomic charges.

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Keywords: Glycine; Basis sets; Ab initio calculations; Geometry parameters; Atomic charges; IR spectrum; HF Limit.

INTRODUCTION

Amino acids are remarkable subjects for computational chemists because of their diversity of intramolecular interactions and conformationally molecule flexibility. Also they create considerable interest for the understanding of the chemistry of peptides and proteins [1]. The simplest amino acid, Glycine, as one of the most important biological compounds has been the most widely studied of the amino acids experimentally and theoretically. This has been confirmed by experimental studies that in the gas phase glycine exists in non-ionized form, $\text{NH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-COOH}$ [2]. Internal rotation about the C-C, C-N, and C-O bonds results in several glycine conformers. During the past three decades, the conformational behavior of glycine especially in gas phase has been the subject of various experimental [2-9] and theoretical [10-22] studies. Crystallized glycine has been explored using X-ray diffraction since 1939 [3] as well as neutron diffraction [4] and spectroscopic techniques [5]. The determination of the spectral and structural characteristics of the conformers of glycine, as well as other natural amino acids, is of great interest because of their relation to the amino acid units in peptides and existence of gas phase glycine in interstellar spaces[23]. The molecular structure of the gaseous glycine were determined by Iijima et al in an electron diffraction study. Conformer I (figure 1) with having bifurcated

$\text{NH}_2\cdots\text{O}=\text{C}$ H-bond was proven to be the most stable form in the gas phase.

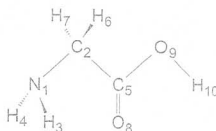


Figure 1. The most stable conformation of glycine (Conformer I).

The conformational behavior of glycine has also been the subject of very extensive theoretical studies. Császár predicted the existence of 13 stable conformers using high-level correlated ab initio calculations [15]. This calculations have been consistent in predicting that the conformer I is the most stable form of glycine neutral molecule. This subject has been confirmed by other similar work [12-20]. However the stability order of this conformer depends on the level of theory and the basis set used in the calculations. Unfortunately, although it is used a chanceful basis set but the efficacy of basis set on calculations has stayed unknown.

The aim of the present study is try to recognition of the behaviors of structural characteristics of glycine respect to the changes of some variables existing in basis sets for the purpose of specifying the most adequate basis set in *ab initio* calculations to describe this simplest amino acid. Therefore, we determined various molecular properties including total energies, complete optimized geometrical parameters including bond lengths, normal and torsion angles, as well as dipole moments, rotational constants, atomic charge distributions, vibrational frequencies and IR intensities and of the neutral form of the most stable conformer of glycine in gas phase with quantum chemical calculations. For this purpose we applied a wide range of Pople's basis sets including STO-nG ($n=2, 3$ and 6), 3-21G, 6-21G, 6-31G, 6-311G augmented by polarization and diffuse functions and two different methods, i.e. the HF and MP2 as the electron uncorrelated and correlated method, respectively. The results were compared together and with the experimental data to understand how these properties depend on the basis sets applied in the calculations and consequently prescribe a suitable basis set for this purpose. In our forthcoming works we continue our studies about other amino acids to survey the dependence of their properties on specific basis sets.

Computational Details

The theoretical results presented in this work were obtained by means of the *ab initio* molecular orbital calculations as the starting point to carry out a force field and normal coordinate calculation for non-zwitterionic glycine.

The calculations were carried out at the different levels of theory using the methods, namely, the Hartree-Fock (HF) [24] as an electron uncorrelated method, the Möller-Plesset second order many body perturbation method (MP2) [25,26] as a method containing electron correlation and inconsiderably the Becke's three-parameter hybrid functional combined with gradient corrected functional of

Lee, Yang and Parr (B3LYP) [27]. The computations also have been performed using the different features of double (DZ) and triple zeta (TZ) qualities of Pople's basis sets, namely, STO-nG ($n=2, 3$ and 6) [28], 3-21G [29,30], 6-21G [30], 6-31G [31] and 6-311G [32]. The mentioned basis sets have been chosen based on the difference between the number of primitives in minimal ones, splitting in valence layer and the number of primitives in core and valence layer. The Dunning's correlation consistent basis sets (cc-pVnZ) [33] have also been applied to determine the HF limit of basis sets. This various basis sets were used with different combinations of diffuse [34] and polarization functions [35], as we presented in Table 1. Fully geometry optimization of structure I (the most stable conformer of neutral glycine) was performed using analytical energy gradients by each level of theory, with no symmetry restrictions. RMS of forces and distances for all calculations didn't exceed 9.5×10^{-3} Hartree/Bohr and 3×10^{-9} Å, respectively.

The atomic charge distributions were obtained using the Mulliken population analysis [36]. The IR spectral characteristics of this structure (I) were calculated by all mentioned above basis sets and two HF and MP2 methods. All calculations were carried out employing the program package GAUSSIAN98 [37].

Results and Discussion

The calculations were done with the HF and MP2 methods - where the former is electron uncorrelated, while the latter one is containing correlation effects - using the various basis sets including the STO-nG series ($n=2,3$ and 6) and the derivatives of Pople's double and triple zeta basis sets including 3-21G, 6-21G, 6-31G, and 6-311G. They were chosen based on the difference between the number of primitives in minimal ones, splitting in valence layer and the number of primitives in the core and valence layers. They were augmented with the different combinations of diffuse and polarization functions, as we listed in Table 1. The fully geometry optimization of the conformer I of glycine (figure 1) was performed using the analytical energy

gradients by each level of theory, with no symmetry restrictions. In the following, first we introduce a simple abbreviation for above basis sets to simplify the diagram presentations, and then the results obtained by aforesaid calculations will be shown and discussed.

Basis sets presentation

Whereas the Pople's basis sets have massive names for our presentational purposes, we had to use some abbreviations as introduced in table 1. The nomination has been accomplished based on the form of splitting, the number of polarization and diffuse functions as similar as possible to basic name. We used the letter A for the minimal basis sets followed by a number showing the number of its primitives. The split-valence basis sets were categorized to the double (S') and triple (S'') zeta. For more illumination, we applied the number of core primitives only for the 6-21G and 3-21G.

The Greek numbers were applied sequentially with the increase of polarization functions, and also \square and \square were seated instead of the diffuse function for heavy atoms and hydrogen atoms, respectively.

HF Limit

The solution of the HF equations with an infinite basis set is defined as the HF limit. Actually carrying out such a calculation is almost never a practical possibility. However, it is sometimes the case that one may extrapolate to the HF limit with a fair degree of confidence. Of the basis sets, the cc-pVnZ and cc-pCVnZ were designed expressly for this purpose. As they increase in size in a consistent fashion with each increment of n, one can imagine plotting some particular computed property as a function of n^{-1} and extrapolating the curve fit through those points back to the intercept; the intercept corresponds to $n = \infty$, i.e. the infinite basis limit[38]. We calculated the HF limit of properties as shown in Table 2 for the geometries and Figure 3 for some other properties by the mentioned method.

Table 1: Classification, presentation and notation of applied basis set.

Basis set Type	Specification	Core	Valence	Addition Functions	Presentation	Symbol ^a	No. of BF	No. of PG
Minimal (A)								
	2 PG (1')	-	-	-	STO-2G	A2	20	60
	3 PG (1')	-	-	-	STO-3G	A3	50	90
	6 PG (1')	-	-	-	STO-6G	A6	20	180
Split-Valence (SA)	Double (zeta (1'))	50	21	Simple Polarization	3-21G	S'3	55	90
				Polarization	3-21G*	S'3*	55	90
				Simple	6-31G	S*2	85	105
				Polarization	6-31G*	S*2*	85	135
				Simple	6-31G	S*	55	150
				Polarization	6-31G*	S'1	85	160
				Diffused	6-31+G	S'1	100	175
				Diffused	6-31++G	S'1	75	150
				Combined	6-31++G*	S'1	80	155
				Combined	6-31++G*	S'1	110	185
				Combined	6-31++G**	S'1	120	195
				Combined	6-31++G**	S'1	125	200
				Combined	6-31++G(2,pd)	S'1	220	310
				Combined	6-31++G(3,d,pd)	S'1	260	370
Split-Valence (SA)	Triple (zeta (1'))	845	311	Simple Polarization	6-311G	S''	30	155
				Polarization	6-311G*	S''	105	185
				Simple	6-311++	S''	120	200
				Diffused	6-311+G	S''	100	175
				Diffused	6-311++G	S''	105	180
				Combined	6-311+G*	S''	125	205
				Combined	6-311++G*	S''	130	210
				Combined	6-311++G**	S''	140	220
				Combined	6-311++G**	S''	145	225
				Combined	6-311++G(2,pd)	S''	230	335
				Combined	6-311++G(3,d,pd)	S''	280	370

^a Due to more simplification, the notation of 6-31 has omitted from the symbols of all 6-31G and 6-311G basis sets. The notation of \square indicates diffuse function on heavy atoms (•) and \square moreover shows diffuse function on hydrogen atoms (•).

Table 2: Extrapolated HF limit of geometry parameters.

Bond lengths	HF Limit	Bond Angles	HF Limit	Dihedrals	HF Limit
N1-C2	1.4337	C2-N1-H3	111.370	H3-C2-N1-H4	-
N1-H3	0.9965	C2-N1-H4	111.370	H3-N1-C2-C3	-59.636
N1-H4	0.9965	N1-C2-C3	115.652	H6-C2-N1-C3	-
C2-C3	1.5179	N1-C2-H6	110.180	H7-C2-N1-C3	-
C2-H6	1.0823	N1-C2-H7	110.180	O8=C3-C2-N1	-
C2-H7	1.0823	C2-C3=O8	125.620	O9-C3-C2-O8	-
C3=O8	1.1787	C2-C3-O9	111.640	H10-O9-C3-C2	-179.963
C3-O9	1.3254				
O9-H10	0.9439				

As we can observe from Figure 2, the cc-pV6Z calculation for glycine due to great number of its basis functions (about 1200 equals to more than 2200 primitives) take a time more than 220000 minute (about 150 days); then involving cc-pV6Z in extrapolation of the HF limit of properties is impractical.

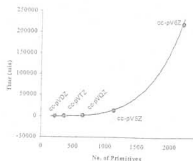
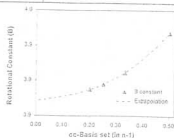
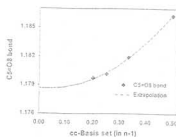


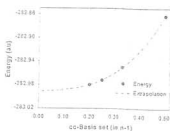
Figure 2. Time of calculation versus number of primitive gaussians in basis set.



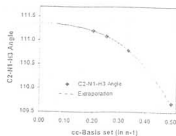
(b)



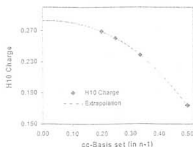
(c)



(a)



(d)

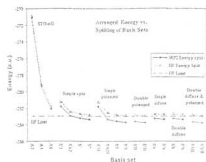


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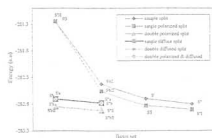
Energy, ZPE and Dipole moment

The total energy, zero point energy and dipole moment data were calculated by different levels of theory. To better deduction and realize the effects of splitting, the increment of polarization and diffuse functions to basis sets and also the effect of methods, we survey the results in following four categories:

Splitting Effect: Figures 3 to 5 respectively show the changes of total energy, dipole moment and zero point energy calculated by the Hartree-Fock and MP2 methods versus different basis sets and discretion for similar splitting in the basis sets. The results has been compared with HF limit of energy as obtained in 3.2 section. As seen from figure 2, the increment in the number of primitive gaussians From A2 to A6 basis set or the increase of splitting in valence layer in the basis sets cause a continuous decrease in the energy level of system. As one can see from junctions between S'3-S'62 and S'3I-S'62I (clearly in Figure 2), the number of primitives in core layer impress extremely on energy, while the effect of increment in splitting of valence layer and the number of primitives in each splitting valence layer continuously diminish, though generally trails decrease of total energy. In comparison of the lines corresponding with □ and □ "diffused splits" lines, we observe that the effect of diffuse functions on system energy is really very teeny and negligible.



(a)



(b)

Figure 2. Total energy calculated by HF and MP2 versus basis set compared with HF limit for conformer (I) glycine, ranking on splitting. a) complete comparison. b) comparison between splitted basis sets except STO-nG for HF method.

In Hartree-Fock level for all lines except "single split" line, the falling slope of energy in split increment from double to triple zeta with nearly maximum %6.8 difference show a steady procedure, wherein all lines are truly parallel. The exception is the "single split" line which in absence of other diffuse or polarization functions is more sensible to more splits and have higher exceptional slope. The falling slope of energy in MP2 level is more respect to HF level, which it bodes more sensibility of this method respect to splitting of basis set.

Figure 3 shows dipole moment changes versus different basis sets for similar splitting

in them. As we see, increasing in the number of primitives in STO-3G cause an improvement in their predicting of dipole moments. "Simple split" basis sets improve widely the prediction procedure, as there is good agreement to experiment. Also the triple zeta basis sets try to improve the results more than double zeta basis sets. However the increment of polarization functions to basis set for heavy atoms change the results severely, so that the quality of basis sets in predicting dipole moment come down to limit of the smallest STO-nG. Addition of polarization functions for all atoms improves partially the prediction. Addition of diffuse functions on heavy atom basis sets always increases the value of dipole moment. This matter is obvious with comparison of the couples of S' , S'' to $S'\alpha$, $S''\alpha$ and $S'II$, $S'III$ to $S'\beta II$, $S'\beta III$. Increase of diffuse function to basis set of hydrogen atoms doesn't create tangible changes. At last, the comparison between the results obtained by MP2 and HF methods shows the former achieves partly more improvement in dipole moment prediction.

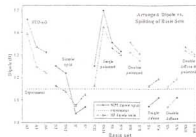


Figure 3. Dipole moment versus basis set for conformer (I) glycine, ranking on splitting.

Figure 4 shows zero point energy (ZPE) changes versus different basis sets for similar splitting in them. As we can see, STO-nG basis sets with a difference more than 4 kcal/mol, which is greatly faraway from splitted basis sets, aren't able to give correct results for ZPE. However a relative improvement in achievements observe when the number of primitives increase.

As shown by "simple split" and "single polarized" paths in figure 4, increment in the number of primitives in core and valence layers and also increment of splits on valence layer nearly always make ZPE values greater. The consequence of increment of polarization functions to basis sets is generally in the interest of heavy atoms and culminates in increase of results, but if done for hydrogen atoms will decrease the conclusions. Indeed, the addition of diffuse functions for heavy atoms generally decreases the results.

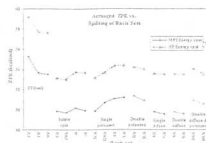


Figure 4. Zero point energy versus basis set for conformer (I) glycine, ranking on splitting.

3.3.2. Polarization Effect: Figures 5 to 7 show the changes of total energy, dipole moment and zero point energy, respectively, calculated by Hartree-Fock method versus different basis sets, but this time division has done based on the addition of polarization functions in the basis sets. As seen from figure 5, in general, the addition of polarization functions in basis sets continuously decrease the energy. It seems that the regular addition of polarization functions in different types of basis set (whether double or triple zeta or diffused basis set) follow a uniform procedure. It seems we can achieve to basis set limit in way of protracting the energy decrement path against the increment of polarization functions.

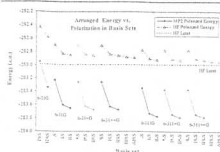


Figure 5. Total energy versus basis set for conformer (I) glycine, ranking on the number of added polarization functions.

As it shown in figure 6, the addition of the first polarization function to basis sets for heavy atoms generally overshoot the predicted value by basis set. This variation in triple zeta basis set is less than double one. However, if we add more polarization function, we encounter the gentle decline run which at last conduce to a definite limit value.

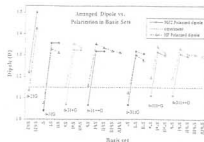


Figure 6. Dipole moment versus basis set, ranking on the number of added polarization functions.

Figure 7 considers zero point energy data. The comparison between figures 6 and 7 reveals that the behavior of ZPE changes against the increment of polarization functions in basis sets is similar to dipole moment. The only two discrepancies consist: first, contradictorily, the ZPE against the inclusion of the first polarization function in precipitate increment of each triple zeta basis sets is less than double zeta ones, and second, the increment of the more number of polarization

functions to basis set cause a considerable decrease in ZPE value and at the end on HF limit comes to constant.

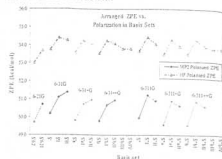


Figure 7. Zero point energy versus basis set, ranking on the number of added polarization functions.

3.3.3. Diffuse Effect: Figures 8 to 10 display the changes of total energy, zero point energy and dipole moment, respectively, calculated by Hartree-Fock method versus different basis sets, but this time division has done based on the addition of diffuse functions in the basis sets. As shown in figure 8, generally the addition of diffuse functions in various splitted basis sets for heavy atoms have the regular forms, which shows a suitable decrement corresponding about -0.01 a.u., while generalizing the increment of diffuse functions for hydrogen atoms only redound to a negligible decrement of energy corresponding about -0.0003 a.u.

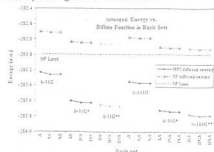


Figure 8. Total energy versus basis set for conformer (I) glycine, ranking on the number of added diffuse functions.

Remarkably this regular procedure exactly is followed for ZPE, as shown in figure 9, but

ZPE is more sensitive respect to the increment of diffuse functions for heavy atoms and shows a decrease between 0.12 – 0.18 kcal/mol, while similar to energy, the inclusion of diffuse function for hydrogen atoms leave out a very small effect only in order of several thousandth.

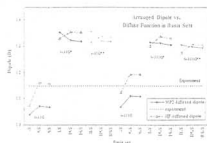


Figure 9. Zero point energy versus basis set, ranking on the number of added diffuse functions.

In contradictory to these two properties, the addition of diffuse functions for heavy atoms, as shown in figure 10, cause the increment of dipole moment in order of several hundredth to 0.1 debyes. Whereas the addition of diffuse function for hydrogen atoms accompanied by a much less effect always decrease the dipole moment about several thousandth. In any case, the addition of polarization and diffuse functions throw away the result far from experimental value, although in triple zeta basis sets this fact occurs gentler than double zeta ones.

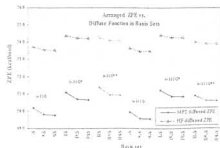


Figure 10. Dipole moment versus basis set, ranking on the number of added diffuse functions.

3.3.4. Method Effect: Notifying to figure 11 reveal that in general, Møller-Plesset perturbation methods (in any order) due to considering correlation generally predict the lower energy, closer to the fact, although its impression is only about 0.9 a.u. equal to %0.3 of total energy. The B3LYP method offers the lowest energy between these methods.

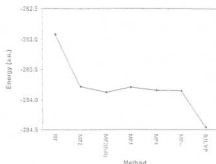


Figure 11. Comparison between total energies calculated by various methods and 6-311++G** basis set for conformer (I) of glycine. The MPn data were taken from ref. [15].

1.1. Geometry

3.4.1. Bond lengths. The theoretically optimized and experimental geometries including bond lengths, bond angles and rotational constants for the equilibrium conformation obtained for the non-zwitterionic glycine (figure 1) by microwave spectroscopy [9] are depicted in Table 3. The calculations have done by the HF method.

Concerning bond distances obtained by STO-nG basis sets, they have calculated the longest values for all of them but since this basis set is known to be less accurate than the other applied basis sets, we can consider that STO-nG basis sets overestimates the bond distances of glycine. As n increase from 2 to 3 and then 6 respectively, this overestimation improves and come nearer to the experiment. Almost in the most cases, the 3-21G series overestimate all the bond lengths except N1-C2 and C2-C5. The same observation can be

made for the 6-21G series, but the exceptions spread to the underestimation of the C5=O8 and C5-O9 bonds. The 6-31G, 6-31+G and 6-31++G sets underestimate all the bond lengths except C2-H6 and C5=O8. The underestimation of C2-H6 is just generalized to the other derivatives of the 6-31G basis set. The same expressions can be repeated for all derivatives of the 6-311G basis set, unless 6-311G, 6-311+G and 6-311++G only lead C5=O8 to be shorter.

By comparing the values obtained with the double zeta basis sets together, one can deduce that the addition of polarization functions for heavy atoms make a relative improvement in the form of decreasing the overestimations and increasing the underestimations in the bond lengths. Anyway, further addition of polarization for hydrogen atoms not only do not improve the situation but also make it a bit more critical. As one can deduce by comparing 6-31++G(2df, pd) and 6-31++G(3df, 3pd), the recuperative effect of more addition of polarization function to basis set is mostly unimportant, then the complexity of the calculations can not help so much to improve the bond lengths. For instance, with going from 6-31G to 6-31++G** and 6-31++G(2df, pd) and then 6-31++G(3df, 3pd), the relative errors in N1-C2 decrease corresponding to 2.16, 2.03, 2.02, %1.96, and in O9-H10 increase corresponding to 1.19, 1.82, 2.03, %2.04, respectively.

In 6-311G triple zeta basis set and its derivatives, it is not observed any preferable absolute status respect to corresponding states in the 6-31G double zeta basis set, and even most of the time there is a few tendency in the interest of double zeta basis set. However the difference between their results is negligible and we didn't observe a meaningful discrepancy. Comparing the 6-311G derivatives together, it seems the inclusion of polarization function for heavy atoms affords a relative improvement in the bond lengths except for C5=O8, C5-O9 and O9-H10.

As like 6-31G, the addition of more polarization functions only generates insignificant changes in the bond lengths and most of the time doesn't afford any improvement.

Generally, in corresponding cases, the results of MP2 method have better conformity with the experiment respect to HF method.

3.4.2. Bond angles. The theoretically optimized and experimental bond angles consist of normal and torsion angles for equilibrium conformation glycine are summarized in Table 3. As we can see, the whole derivatives of 6-31G and 6-311G basis sets overestimate N1-C2-C5, C2-C5=O8 and C2-C5-O9, and underestimate C5-O9-H10 (except for 6-31G and 6-311G). The effect of the addition of polarization functions and diffuse functions on angle values is completely inversed together.

If the addition of polarization function increases the angle, the diffuse function has a gentle descending effect on it and at last the addition of more polarization functions enforce the angles to tend to experiment in a gentle run. The impression left on bond angles by the addition of the first polarization function, is very intensive only for C2-N1-H3 and C5-O9-H10 angles equal to about 5.5° for 6-31G derivatives and negligible for others. The more inclusion of polarization function increases these two angles maximum 0.5° or less.

According to just one dihedral angle we have from experiment, whole of basis sets predict successfully.

3.4.3. Rotational constants. Again, the theoretically optimized and experimental rotational constants for equilibrium conformation glycine have been showed in Table 3.

Table 3: Continued.

Level Theory	Coordinate α	MP2 / Basis Set											
		A2	A3	A6	S7-9	S7-11	S*62	S*62-31	S'	S'1	S'11	S'u	S'1p
R	N1-C2	1.5192	1.5152	1.5112	1.4615	1.4815	1.4813	1.4598	1.4642	1.4521	1.4305	1.4628	1.4502
	N1-H3	1.0609	1.0598	1.0558	1.0232	1.0232	1.0235	1.0271	1.0162	1.0189	1.0144	1.0159	1.0137
	C2-C5	1.5919	1.5766	1.5759	1.5276	1.5276	1.5200	1.5191	1.5275	1.5169	1.5166	1.5275	1.5181
	C2-H6	1.1117	1.1099	1.1052	1.0941	1.0941	1.0941	1.0960	1.0964	1.0952	1.0910	1.0968	1.0955
	C5-C8	1.2557	1.2577	1.2558	1.2274	1.2274	1.2311	1.2314	1.2490	1.2189	1.2183	1.2490	1.2214
	C5-O9	1.4149	1.4157	1.4116	1.3936	1.3936	1.3991	1.3375	1.4003	1.3593	1.3588	1.4012	1.3621
	O9-H10	1.0212	1.0189	1.0168	0.9964	0.9964	0.9778	0.9936	0.9951	0.9796	0.9712	0.9867	0.9812
	Bond lengths												
	Bond angles												
Zc	C2-N1-H3	103.14	104.09	104.24	110.27	110.27	110.16	106.50	113.67	108.80	108.57	114.91	114.92
	N1-C2-C5	114.00	113.60	113.64	113.18	113.18	113.16	113.34	114.89	114.85	114.87	115.41	115.39
	N1-C2-H6	108.71	108.82	108.85	109.71	109.71	109.66	109.95	109.61	109.80	109.96	109.47	109.49
	C2-C5-C8	125.82	126.11	126.29	126.59	126.59	126.43	124.64	126.43	125.45	125.38	126.92	126.91
	C2-C5-O9	110.41	111.06	111.17	110.03	110.03	110.16	111.22	110.96	111.36	111.36	110.47	110.47
	C5-O9-H10	101.58	101.76	101.61	106.10	106.10	107.73	103.83	110.04	105.80	105.79	110.81	110.77
	Torsion Angles												
	Retational constants												
	Dipole moment												
C	A	9.430	9.524	9.569	9.808	9.808	9.269	10.217	9.900	10.210	10.228	9.763	9.764
	B	3.625	3.648	3.656	3.813	3.813	3.798	3.949	3.715	3.885	3.894	3.725	3.726
	C	2.001	2.022	2.029	2.836	2.836	2.825	2.938	2.799	2.907	2.912	2.785	2.786
	Retational constants												
	Dipole moment												
H	A	1.458	1.336	1.311	1.251	1.251	1.219	1.498	1.039	1.355	1.357	1.072	1.068
	B	1.458	1.336	1.311	1.251	1.251	1.219	1.498	1.039	1.355	1.357	1.072	1.068

Table 3: Continued.

Level of Theory	Coordinate ^a	MP2/ Basis Set										Experimental Value ^d	
		S ⁺	S ⁺ I	S ⁺ II	S ⁺ III	S ⁺ IV	S ⁺ V	S ⁺ VI	S ⁺ VII	S ⁺ VIII	C ⁺		
R	N1-C2	1.4630	1.4499	1.4513	1.4618	1.4618	1.4618	1.4618	1.4618	1.4618	1.4618	1.4444	1.456
	N1-H3	1.0131	1.0126	1.0132	1.0134	1.0134	1.0134	1.0134	1.0134	1.0134	1.0134	1.0142	1.021
	C2-C5	1.5193	1.5189	1.5195	1.5208	1.5208	1.5208	1.5208	1.5208	1.5208	1.5208	1.5123	1.529
	C2-H6	1.0943	1.0939	1.0945	1.0947	1.0947	1.0947	1.0947	1.0947	1.0947	1.0947	1.0919	1.091
	C5-C8	1.2411	1.2406	1.2412	1.2412	1.2412	1.2412	1.2412	1.2412	1.2412	1.2412	1.220	1.204
	C5-O9	1.3963	1.3956	1.3961	1.3981	1.3981	1.3981	1.3981	1.3981	1.3981	1.3981	1.3521	1.367
	O9-H10	0.9788	0.9635	0.9671	0.9811	0.9811	0.9811	0.9811	0.9811	0.9811	0.9811	0.9705	0.966
	ΔA	113.25	109.21	108.56	114.30	114.30	114.30	114.30	114.30	114.30	114.30	109.07	109.4
	C2-N1-H3	115.14	115.18	114.97	115.35	115.35	115.35	115.35	115.35	115.35	115.35	115.50	115.4
	N1-C2-C5	109.45	109.41	110.01	109.38	109.38	109.38	109.38	109.38	109.38	109.38	110.01	109.8
Z _x	C2-C5-O8	126.54	125.57	125.35	126.70	126.70	126.70	126.70	126.70	126.70	126.70	125.78	125.8
	C2-C5-O9	110.92	111.19	111.25	110.53	110.53	110.53	110.53	110.53	110.53	110.53	110.91	111.0
	C5-O9-H10	110.31	106.80	105.40	111.04	111.04	111.04	111.04	111.04	111.04	111.04	106.34	106.1
	Δ _x	127.01	115.64	113.16	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	116.41	116.1
	H3-N1-C2	-63.51	-57.82	-56.73	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-58.21	-57.3
O8-C5-C2-N1	H7-C2-N1-C5	121.22	122.00	121.69	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.88	121.8
	O8-C5-C2-N1	119.09	119.01	118.00	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.99	129.9
	Δ _y	127.01	115.64	113.16	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	116.41	116.1
	H3-N1-C2	-63.51	-57.82	-56.73	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-58.21	-57.3
	O8-C5-C2	121.22	122.00	121.69	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.88	121.8
A	H7-C2-N1-C5	119.09	119.01	118.00	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.99	129.9
	Δ _z	127.01	115.64	113.16	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	116.41	116.1
	H3-N1-C2	-63.51	-57.82	-56.73	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-58.21	-57.3
	O8-C5-C2	121.22	122.00	121.69	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.88	121.8
	Δ _w	127.01	115.64	113.16	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	116.41	116.1
B	H7-C2-N1-C5	119.09	119.01	118.00	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.99	129.9
	Δ _z	127.01	115.64	113.16	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	116.41	116.1
	H3-N1-C2	-63.51	-57.82	-56.73	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-58.21	-57.3
	O8-C5-C2	121.22	122.00	121.69	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.88	121.8
	Δ _w	127.01	115.64	113.16	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	116.41	116.1
C	H7-C2-N1-C5	119.09	119.01	118.00	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.99	129.9
	Δ _z	127.01	115.64	113.16	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	116.41	116.1
	H3-N1-C2	-63.51	-57.82	-56.73	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-58.21	-57.3
	O8-C5-C2	121.22	122.00	121.69	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.88	121.8
	Δ _w	127.01	115.64	113.16	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	116.41	116.1
μ	H7-C2-N1-C5	119.09	119.01	118.00	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.98	129.99	129.9
	Δ _z	127.01	115.64	113.16	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	116.41	116.1
	H3-N1-C2	-63.51	-57.82	-56.73	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-64.96	-58.21	-57.3
	O8-C5-C2	121.22	122.00	121.69	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.27	121.88	121.8
	Δ _w	127.01	115.64	113.16	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	129.91	116.41	116.1

^a Distances (R) in angstroms, angles (A) and (G) in degrees, rotational constants (A, B and C) in GHz, and dipole moment(μ) in debyes. ^b or numbering of atoms, see Figure 1. Note that theoretical rotational constants refer to equilibrium values (A_e, B_e and C_e), but available experimental constants do not. ^c From ref. [15]. ^d From ref. [19].

with the 3-21G and 6-21G sets by both HF and MP2 methods, we can deduce that the increment of primitives for core electrons causes a slight improvement for the frequencies, although most of the time it is negligible.

Comparing the results of the 6-21G and 6-31G simple double zeta split valence basis sets reveals that the basis set containing less primitives in valence layer (i.e. 6-21G) shows a better correspondence with experimental values in both HF and MP2 methods. However, in prediction of intensities, 6-31G are more prosperous.

The comparison of the 6-31G double zeta with 6-311G triple zeta split valence basis sets shows that there is not any substantial difference between their results in the MP2 method, while in HF, it is for the benefit of 6-311G.

We can infer the efficacy of polarization functions via the comparison of basis sets in three groups (6-21G, 6-21G*), (6-31G, 6-31G*, 6-31G**) and (6-311G, 6-311G*, 6-311G**). As one can see, the addition of polarization functions either in the HF or MP2 method especially under frequency 1429 cm^{-1} pervert most of the frequencies from the experiment and misstate the intensities. In the HF method, over the frequency 1429 cm^{-1} , this addition causes an improvement in the intensity predictions. These deductions repeat exactly for the groups (6-31+G, 6-31+G*, 6-31+G**), (6-31++G, 6-31++G*, 6-31++G**), (6-31++G(2d,p), 6-31++G(3d,3p)) and the corresponding groups for 6-311+G and 6-311+G.

On the other hand, with comparing the results obtained by basis sets in two groups (6-31G, 6-31+G, 6-31++G) and (6-311G, 6-311+G, 6-311++G) in both HF and MP2 methods, we realize that the addition of diffuse functions always improves the frequencies without any salient changes. The efficacy of adding diffuse functions for hydrogen atoms is much less than it for heavy atoms. These deduction repeats for the groups (6-31G*, 6-31+G*, 6-31++G*), (6-31G**, 6-31+G**, 6-31++G**)

and the corresponding groups for 6-311G* and 6-311G**.

At the end, we can suggest that the simple double zeta 6-21G and 6-31G and triple zeta 6-311G split valence basis sets and also their corresponding diffuse augmented basis sets achieve more success in predicting IR spectrum of glycine respect to the other basis sets either with the HF or MP2 method. It seems that 6-311++G are more successful among them, but if necessary to reduce the calculation time, one can content oneself with those simple double and triple zeta basis sets. Finally, it should be noted that the HF method for determination of the intensities and the MP2 method for predicting more accurate frequencies are more adequate.

2. Conclusions

The calculations were accomplished with two HF and MP2 methods using the various basis sets including the STO-nG series ($n=2,3$ and 6) and the derivatives of Pople's double and triple zeta basis sets including 3-21G, 6-21G, 6-31G, and 6-311G which were augmented with the different combinations of diffuse and polarization functions, as we listed in Table 1. Dunning's cc-pVnZ basis sets have also been applied to determine the HF limit of the molecule properties, as we presented in Table 2 and Figure 3. The fully geometry optimization of the conformer 1 of gaseous glycine (figure 1) was done by each level of theory, without any symmetry restrictions. The results were compared together and with the experiment and also the corresponding HF limits to find how these properties depend on the basis sets.

The following mentionable conclusions can be drawn from the present theoretical study:

1. In study of total energy, dipole moment and zero point energy in the 3.3 section, we discussed comprehensively the effects of the increment of splitting, polarization and diffuse functions to basis sets. As seen, the increase of primitives in the minimal basis sets and the splitting in the split valence basis sets cause a continuous decrease

in the energy level of system and coming close to HF limit. The number of primitives in core layer on the contrary to valence layer impress extremely on energy. On the other hand, the triple zeta basis sets tend to improve the results more than double zeta basis sets. In general, the addition of polarization functions in basis sets exponentially decrease the energy, so that the assessment of basis set limit is predictable. The addition of diffuse function for hydrogen atoms doesn't create tangible changes in above properties.

Moreover, The MPn methods (in any order) and the B3LYP, due to considering electron correlation generally predict the energy about %0.3 and %0.5 lower, respectively and also have improvable effect on dipole moment results.

With attention to aforesaid highlights and Figures 2 to 10 in section 3.3, we suggest 6-311G basis set to run a quick calculation with adequate accuracy and the bigger 6-311+G** basis set for more accurate calculations.

2. In geometry studies we find that STO-nG basis sets overestimates the bond distances of glycine. This overestimation improves as n increase. 3-21G overestimate almost all the bond lengths. The same observation can be made for the 6-21G sets.

On the other hand, there is no meaningful difference between the results of 6-31G double zeta and 6-311G triple zeta basis sets and their corresponding derivatives. Anyhow, in both kind of basis sets, the addition of polarization functions for heavy atoms makes a relative improvement in the bond lengths. Anyway, further addition of polarization for hydrogen atoms makes them results a bit critical. Also more addition of polarization function and the complexity of the calculations doesn't improve the results. Also, the basis sets augmented with diffuse functions underestimate the most of bond lengths. At last, the results of MP2 have better agreement with the experiment respect to the HF method.

The effect of the addition of polarization functions and diffuse functions on angle values is completely inversed together. The

addition of more polarization functions enforce the angles to tend to experiment in a gentle run. The addition of the first polarization function, impress very intensive only for C2-N1-H3 and C5-O9-H10 angles equal to about 5.5° for 6-31G derivatives. The more inclusion of polarization functions impress them much less.

So with attention to above, it seems that the 6-31G* can be the most adequate to attain the geometry parameters.

3. In the calculation of atomic charges we conclude that:

As n increase in STO-nG, a tangible increment on the absolute value of charges on the atom centers and so the strength of intramolecular H-bonds observes. The increment in the number of primitive gaussians for the electrons of core and valence layer doesn't affect so much on the value of atomic charges. Also more splitting valence basis sets catch a considerable changes on atomic charges towards weaker H-bonding. Furthermore a general rule for the addition of polarization functions in different types of double and triple zeta basis sets consist "with including more polarization functions to each type of basis set derivatives, there is a propensity to decrease the absolute charges on the all atoms, and consequently to weaken the H-bonds". On the other hand, we except to obtain a bit more stable structures through using the diffuse functions especially in the 6-311G basis set and their derivatives.

4. In the study of the IR spectrum, we find that the HF method generally because of the lack of embracing the proportion of electron correlation overestimates the frequency much more than the MP2 method. Moreover it makes more mistake to predict the intensities. Then the HF method for determination of the intensities and the MP2 method for predicting of more accurate frequencies are more adequate.

The STO-nG minimal basis sets overestimate intensely the frequencies and evaluate the intensities completely wrong. By comparing the results obtained by 3-21G and 6-21G basis sets, it is revealed that the effect of the number of primitives in core layer on

the results are negligible. Through two simple double zeta split valence 6-21G and 6-31G basis sets, the 6-21G which applies less number of primitives in the valence layer is more valid in the estimation of the frequencies whereas it does inversely in determination of the intensities. Also it is manifested that the increment of splitting in valence layer in HF method improve the results. In deed, the addition of polarization functions to basis sets digress always the results from the experiment.

Whereas the addition of diffuse function especially for heavy atoms operates vise versa.

Finally, we suggest that the simple double zeta 6-21G and 6-31G and triple zeta 6-311G split valence basis sets and also their corresponding diffuse augmented basis sets are valid in predicting of the IR spectrum of glycine. It seems that 6-311++G are more successful among them, but to shorten the time of calculations, one can content oneself with those simple double and triple zeta basis sets.

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