

## Supporting Information

### Stability of sulfur molecules and insights into sulfur allotropy

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S1. Atomic coordinates and total energies of all calculated ground-state structures of  $S_n$  molecules ( $2 \leq n \leq 21$ ) in the XYZ format.

2

$E_{\text{tot}} = -21671.58415$  eV

S	0.0000000000	0.0000000000	0.9637190000
S	0.0000000000	0.0000000000	-0.9637190000

3

$E_{\text{tot}} = -32507.32539$  eV

S	1.6746230000	-0.3343910000	0.0000000000
S	0.0000000000	0.6687750000	-0.0000000000
S	-1.6746230000	-0.3343840000	-0.0000000000

4

$E_{\text{tot}} = -43343.45311$  eV

S	-1.6049580000	0.9354490000	0.0000240000
S	-1.1128590000	-0.9354840000	-0.0000350000
S	1.1129120000	-0.9354620000	0.0000350000
S	1.6049040000	0.9354960000	-0.0000240000

5

$E_{\text{tot}} = -54179.80544$  eV

S	-1.5206900000	-0.5565990000	-0.4631940000
S	-1.1227180000	1.3769360000	0.1641920000
S	-0.0058800000	-1.6217630000	0.5982530000
S	1.5165210000	-0.5677300000	-0.4626250000
S	1.1327670000	1.3691560000	0.1633740000

6

$E_{\text{tot}} = -65016.34205$  eV

S	1.8434330000	0.5277580000	-0.4522230000
S	1.3782040000	-1.3331270000	0.4522270000
S	-0.4648300000	-1.8595930000	-0.4525100000
S	-1.8435120000	-0.5275770000	0.4522140000
S	-1.3783590000	1.3330030000	-0.4521840000
S	0.4650640000	1.8595360000	0.4524770000

7

$E_{\text{tot}} = -75852.57994$  eV

S	-0.4543020000	-1.7822500000	0.7494920000
S	-2.0213160000	-1.1352070000	-0.3628840000
S	2.3236290000	0.0005270000	0.2275120000
S	1.3151200000	-1.6890430000	-0.5002040000

S	1.3141290000	1.6896010000	-0.4999850000
S	-0.4554530000	1.7823330000	0.7493640000
S	-2.0218070000	1.1340390000	-0.3632960000

8

E\_tot = -86689.01395 eV

S	0.9290290000	2.2445550000	0.4968070000
S	2.2445550000	-0.9290290000	0.4968070000
S	-0.9290290000	-2.2445550000	0.4968070000
S	-2.2445550000	0.9290290000	0.4968070000
S	-0.9292710000	2.2445550000	-0.4968070000
S	2.2445550000	0.9292710000	-0.4968070000
S	0.9292710000	-2.2445550000	-0.4968070000
S	-2.2445550000	-0.9292710000	-0.4968070000

9

E\_tot = -97524.88454 eV

S	-1.9252810000	-0.9613700000	1.0744450000
S	-1.1177920000	1.4460550000	-1.2461830000
S	-1.0501260000	-2.4302730000	-0.1513720000
S	-2.7003360000	0.5738580000	-0.1913420000
S	-0.0001070000	2.7422220000	-0.0001500000
S	1.9254920000	-0.9607570000	-1.0743820000
S	1.0505140000	-2.4301510000	0.1511630000
S	1.1173220000	1.4463940000	1.2461630000
S	2.7003140000	0.5740220000	0.1916580000

10

E\_tot = -108361.02298 eV

S	2.8572120000	-0.0037340000	1.0471000000
S	-2.8572120000	-0.0037340000	-1.0471000000
S	2.8572120000	0.0037340000	-1.0471000000
S	-2.8572120000	0.0037340000	1.0471000000
S	1.2451710000	-1.2359690000	1.6877600000
S	-1.2451710000	-1.2359690000	-1.6877600000
S	1.2451710000	1.2359690000	-1.6877600000
S	-0.0000000000	0.0000000000	-2.8478380000
S	0.0000000000	-0.0000000000	2.8478380000
S	-1.2451710000	1.2359690000	1.6877600000

11

E\_tot = -119197.16088 eV

S	-0.6802740000	2.7173010000	-0.8348620000
S	2.8296600000	-1.3288080000	-0.8111680000

S	2.5245240000	1.9507940000	0.2251390000
S	2.7592450000	-0.0661330000	0.8649150000
S	0.6820020000	2.7169760000	0.8348600000
S	0.8561710000	-1.7540510000	-1.4326540000
S	-2.5232270000	1.9524450000	-0.2252100000
S	-0.0010910000	-3.0428960000	-0.0001850000
S	-2.7591860000	-0.0646420000	-0.8647050000
S	-0.8572070000	-1.7539640000	1.4326140000
S	-2.8306180000	-1.3270210000	0.8112560000

12

E\_tot = -130033.50977 eV

S	-2.0489450000	1.4862220000	-1.1489010000
S	2.3120550000	1.0309620000	-1.1487010000
S	-0.2630080000	-2.5188960000	-1.1475790000
S	-2.3120550000	-1.0309620000	1.1487010000
S	2.0489450000	-1.4862220000	1.1489010000
S	0.2630080000	2.5188960000	1.1475790000
S	-1.3968490000	3.1328630000	-0.0016760000
S	-3.4112110000	0.3564970000	0.0004590000
S	3.4112110000	-0.3564970000	-0.0004590000
S	2.0145750000	2.7764120000	-0.0002710000
S	-2.0145750000	-2.7764120000	0.0002710000
S	1.3968490000	-3.1328630000	0.0016760000

13

E\_tot = -140869.42193 eV

S	2.1389460000	2.9478860000	-0.0950660000
S	0.3740380000	2.5277830000	-1.1704970000
S	-1.2489240000	3.3516220000	-0.0867760000
S	-2.1475870000	1.9346470000	1.1498980000
S	3.8357840000	0.0007920000	-0.0006350000
S	2.6006380000	1.2909020000	1.1217840000
S	-3.6381630000	-1.0181340000	0.1372650000
S	-2.1464090000	-1.9362060000	-1.1496540000
S	-3.6381200000	1.0165550000	-0.1387170000
S	-1.2472340000	-3.3518730000	0.0883480000
S	0.3756400000	-2.5268390000	1.1710880000
S	2.6010190000	-1.2902190000	-1.1223680000
S	2.1403730000	-2.9469170000	0.0953300000

14

E\_tot = -151705.69286 eV

S	-1.6777500000	2.3342020000	-1.1158580000
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S	-0.8262690000	3.3890470000	0.5036780000
S	-3.5989740000	1.7254730000	-0.4972200000
S	-1.6791090000	-2.3336510000	-1.1160410000
S	-3.4448260000	0.0006600000	0.7052630000
S	-3.6000220000	-1.7238250000	-0.4973040000
S	2.8553640000	1.7322110000	-1.0818680000
S	2.4429400000	2.6070200000	0.7959950000
S	0.5181120000	2.0591350000	1.4492970000
S	4.0257950000	-0.0009250000	-0.8136180000
S	0.5167430000	-2.0592110000	1.4492270000
S	-0.8281130000	-3.3886640000	0.5034960000
S	2.4413640000	-2.6079480000	0.7965120000
S	2.8547450000	-1.7335240000	-1.0815590000

15

E\_tot = -162541.79870 eV

S	-3.2691130000	-1.3262090000	-0.9151980000
S	-4.0203180000	0.6346250000	-1.0512380000
S	-2.4502580000	2.0063950000	-1.3935590000
S	-0.3646260000	2.2881130000	1.3703150000
S	-2.0766190000	3.0530620000	0.4070630000
S	1.2751500000	3.4339660000	0.6935900000
S	2.2332860000	2.3801380000	-0.8669900000
S	-1.0584060000	-1.3860650000	1.6343370000
S	-3.0521650000	-1.8343620000	1.1276630000
S	0.1221670000	-3.1118620000	1.4088550000
S	0.4333050000	-3.4909190000	-0.6518750000
S	3.4125210000	-1.8138490000	-0.8782420000
S	1.4058790000	-1.8469800000	-1.5307890000
S	3.4559250000	-0.4364620000	0.7218550000
S	3.9532740000	1.4504090000	-0.0757870000

16

E\_tot = -173377.89488 eV

S	3.4374160000	0.4398790000	1.1159180000
S	3.8234910000	2.1888120000	0.0003270000
S	4.2517040000	-1.1556610000	0.0007580000
S	2.7418860000	-2.1192440000	-1.1148210000
S	-1.1555810000	-4.2507320000	-0.0006770000
S	0.4394770000	-3.4363990000	1.1151850000
S	2.1889780000	-3.8229330000	0.0005690000
S	-0.4399190000	3.4365370000	1.1152100000
S	-2.7414030000	2.1190900000	-1.1155880000
S	-3.4377140000	-0.4398450000	1.1151330000

S	-2.1194680000	-2.7408070000	-1.1157600000
S	-3.8235200000	-2.1888870000	-0.0004280000
S	1.1556400000	4.2507700000	-0.0000820000
S	-2.1889210000	3.8229280000	-0.0001870000
S	-4.2515980000	1.1556080000	-0.0004190000
S	2.1195340000	2.7408850000	-1.1151410000

17

E\_tot = -184214.09871 eV

S	0.3835170000	-3.1017390000	0.8744850000
S	1.3560620000	1.0279640000	1.6970250000
S	0.4496110000	2.8700930000	1.2227470000
S	-4.8505420000	-0.0003150000	0.0003120000
S	-3.6362440000	-1.6439180000	-0.5220160000
S	-2.9771520000	-2.5786560000	1.2541600000
S	-2.9775580000	2.5781550000	-1.2539150000
S	-3.6364020000	1.6435590000	0.5223660000
S	-1.0638180000	-1.7829040000	1.6574450000
S	3.4212650000	1.2680150000	2.0207650000
S	4.4930470000	1.0369870000	0.2194720000
S	-1.0640280000	1.7828050000	-1.6572880000
S	0.3830150000	3.1023620000	-0.8751220000
S	4.4924700000	-1.0379170000	-0.2187320000
S	3.4214740000	-1.2681050000	-2.0206150000
S	0.4490770000	-2.8690640000	-1.2233480000
S	1.3562060000	-1.0273230000	-1.6977430000

18

E\_tot = -195050.32884 eV

S	-3.4421840000	0.0505240000	-1.6809010000
S	-3.0072380000	-2.8833830000	0.0356950000
S	-4.0053630000	-1.9824720000	-1.5906260000
S	3.4420650000	-0.0507580000	-1.6809560000
S	-1.0945810000	-3.4840310000	-0.6258600000
S	2.7229740000	-2.7438390000	1.7097690000
S	4.8027640000	-1.2028150000	-0.5545150000
S	4.1785680000	-1.2387190000	1.4617550000
S	0.8444470000	-1.7859800000	1.6246140000
S	0.1753480000	-1.8196550000	-0.3794940000
S	4.0057140000	1.9821310000	-1.5903720000
S	3.0074190000	2.8831290000	0.0357460000
S	1.0949720000	3.4841360000	-0.6262090000
S	-0.8445420000	1.7867820000	1.6243700000
S	-0.1753740000	1.8201410000	-0.3797580000

S	-2.7232870000	2.7441580000	1.7092040000
S	-4.1785300000	1.2385480000	1.4618110000
S	-4.8031730000	1.2021060000	-0.5542730000

19

E\_tot = -205886.44649 eV

S	-4.7156160000	0.0166930000	1.2439230000
S	-3.6395730000	2.6562520000	-0.6943700000
S	-5.1717960000	1.9647050000	0.5818940000
S	-2.1197390000	3.5121150000	0.4950100000
S	2.1195990000	3.5120100000	-0.4950710000
S	0.6543310000	2.0305190000	-0.8286520000
S	-0.6544270000	2.0307070000	0.8288630000
S	-5.4310240000	-1.3580600000	-0.1916170000
S	-3.8373240000	-1.7521290000	-1.5174150000
S	-2.7876470000	-3.4386280000	-0.8161790000
S	4.7157660000	0.0164950000	-1.2438470000
S	2.7879520000	-3.4384860000	0.8161090000
S	3.6396250000	2.6563030000	0.6942330000
S	5.1717090000	1.9647560000	-0.5821170000
S	5.4312050000	-1.3577840000	0.1918790000
S	3.8370330000	-1.7521710000	1.5175070000
S	1.5426760000	-2.8221580000	-0.7772630000
S	0.0000740000	-1.6187870000	0.0000230000
S	-1.5428240000	-2.8223530000	0.7770920000

20

E\_tot = -216722.46678 eV

S	2.8566850000	3.8417290000	0.4539030000
S	0.0000350000	1.9849410000	0.0000890000
S	1.4392020000	3.1832290000	-0.9618200000
S	3.9604100000	2.1626410000	1.1074160000
S	5.1534010000	1.5312440000	-0.5092560000
S	4.0883930000	-0.0601220000	-1.4143590000
S	-2.8565490000	3.8418960000	-0.4540030000
S	-1.4391030000	3.1834900000	0.9617650000
S	-3.9603750000	2.1627410000	-1.1074460000
S	-5.1532450000	1.5313330000	0.5092880000
S	-4.0883050000	-0.0600470000	1.4144100000
S	-2.5989460000	-3.7419390000	-0.7824360000
S	-4.2625240000	-2.4639500000	-1.0985740000
S	-0.0001080000	-1.5811920000	-0.0000730000
S	0.8577390000	-2.8039440000	1.4907340000
S	4.9954200000	-1.8510460000	-0.7780450000

S	2.5987750000	-3.7418590000	0.7825210000
S	4.2624850000	-2.4640620000	1.0986330000
S	-4.9954690000	-1.8509190000	0.7780540000
S	-0.8579210000	-2.8041640000	-1.4908010000

21

E\_tot = -227558.63640 eV

S	1.5768550000	1.4828340000	-0.6845360000
S	4.7270090000	2.4464640000	0.2422710000
S	-2.3915250000	3.3589640000	-0.8704320000
S	-5.5102370000	0.4379910000	0.6904860000
S	-3.7049260000	1.2410670000	1.4237350000
S	-0.5582320000	4.1589610000	-0.2010940000
S	0.5655520000	2.6546530000	0.7516270000
S	-3.6721870000	3.2641040000	0.8083800000
S	1.4317320000	-2.2741940000	1.8075270000
S	2.0046250000	-3.3690760000	0.0931450000
S	5.6410160000	-0.8376620000	0.7513280000
S	6.1696100000	0.9822460000	-0.1962690000
S	3.2833630000	2.5581170000	-1.3007380000
S	3.0652330000	-2.0839420000	-1.1969620000
S	5.1209930000	-2.2218380000	-0.7469810000
S	-2.8982870000	-2.5698330000	-1.6159710000
S	-0.2581070000	-1.1292910000	1.2839800000
S	-2.3455150000	-3.5961740000	0.1298240000
S	-2.0037770000	-2.2300220000	1.7054640000
S	-5.2644550000	-0.1002710000	-1.3415380000
S	-4.9787430000	-2.1730990000	-1.5332450000



S2. Frequencies of  $S_n$  molecules ( $2 \leq n \leq 21$ )

$S_2$ :  
682.9

$S_3$ :  
258.4          561.9          638.8

$S_4$ :  
85.8          204.4          304.3  
318.8          622.1          648.6

$S_5$ :  
93.1          217.3          273.2  
285.1          303.5          305.5  
397.3          473.0          479.7

$S_6$ :  
157.8          158.4          195.4  
195.6          252.6          305.3  
308.7          404.5          404.95  
428.7          429.0          450.95

$S_7$ :  
57.2          124.2          147.8  
163.8          188.6          226.8  
257.8          281.6          314.5  
331.3          345.0          420.9  
454.2          491.5          501.2

$S_8$ :  
71.2          71.97          140.9  
141.0          185.8          185.8  
207.8          235.1          241.0  
241.0          342.5          376.6  
376.6          431.2          432.7  
437.9          447.9

$S_9$ :  
48.7          64.5          79.9  
91.1          138.8          149.7  
168.4          206.6          208.8  
240.2          244.1          293.0  
348.6          352.5          386.1  
395.7          422.6          426.2  
428.6          447.7          453.1

$S_{10}$ :  
32.5          32.6          68.9  
68.9          143.5          143.5

167.0	175.4	175.4
189.6	199.9	200.0
207.9	207.9	333.1
368.4	368.6	412.8
413.0	434.9	435.0
435.1	435.3	444.2

S<sub>11</sub>:

29.8	38.3	52.3
56.5	89.9	102.2
125.9	155.9	161.8
164.0	193.5	204.8
211.1	234.8	253.5
275.1	334.6	346.7
385.9	386.4	419.4
429.4	429.9	434.2
445.0	445.7	453.8

S<sub>12</sub>:

40.3	40.5	41.8
42.0	66.0	75.0
100.4	140.2	152.3
152.4	173.7	174.0
232.9	232.9	244.7
244.8	264.9	281.9
338.3	360.8	360.9
400.4	400.6	426.7
428.2	429.3	434.3
434.3	441.4	441.5

S<sub>13</sub>:

12.6	29.5	36.7
39.3	57.4	67.5
82.9	98.1	120.4
127.9	152.7	160.7
174.7	178.9	219.7
221.9	228.7	236.9
257.4	267.8	336.6
345.6	373.1	376.2
405.7	411.0	429.8
433.1	437.5	440.5
448.7	451.5	476.4

S<sub>14</sub>:

23.8	29.7	30.5
36.7	57.6	60.6
61.8	68.6	108.8

114.6	152.5	155.8
160.5	178.9	185.5
206.4	222.5	232.2
235.8	244.5	251.6
265.2	338.9	355.9
357.4	391.1	391.2
418.8	421.4	429.4
431.6	436.6	436.8
438.1	446.6	451.4

S<sub>15</sub>:

15.9	24.6	27.3
40.0	49.6	50.5
55.7	58.2	73.5
95.0	108.3	146.3
156.5	158.4	171.9
179.7	197.9	217.5
227.4	228.9	244.2
250.3	258.9	278.9
341.1	348.3	369.0
370.6	401.1	402.6
418.7	426.6	427.0
431.0	436.2	439.5
443.0	446.6	450.8

S<sub>16</sub>:

15.4	16.0	29.4
29.5	50.4	50.4
53.2	53.2	58.5
73.8	83.7	125.1
125.1	157.1	165.0
165.0	184.3	184.4
199.0	199.1	235.9
235.9	237.8	237.8
253.8	257.1	338.1
351.9	351.9	381.0
381.1	409.5	409.6
426.4	429.6	434.7
438.7	438.7	439.5
439.5	443.9	444.0

S<sub>17</sub>:

19.1	20.3	32.4
32.4	40.2	41.8
46.7	48.9	60.9

63.1	72.5	99.1
106.9	126.2	129.8
155.4	163.6	178.7
194.4	207.9	216.7
222.5	239.0	248.7
254.0	259.2	267.8
274.6	342.1	344.8
362.4	366.5	392.0
394.7	417.9	419.1
422.7	425.5	429.0
433.4	434.5	435.0
441.6	449.8	450.3

S<sub>18</sub>:

19.0	26.7	31.0
32.6	33.6	39.4
44.8	56.0	58.1
61.2	64.7	82.9
93.1	107.7	123.5
147.3	154.8	161.3
178.1	192.8	196.5
217.5	222.9	231.5
241.8	246.4	252.8
263.1	267.9	273.1
339.6	348.9	351.2
373.8	374.3	398.9
401.3	420.1	422.1
429.4	429.5	433.2
435.0	437.7	438.2
439.6	443.2	443.3

S<sub>19</sub>:

16.8	19.0	24.3
28.6	32.0	35.8
36.1	41.9	47.7
53.0	58.4	64.2
81.3	83.1	97.6
112.6	144.2	146.7
161.6	164.8	186.6
192.3	209.0	218.6
238.4	239.4	248.8
250.2	262.9	266.3
273.9	284.5	341.7
342.2	358.1	361.3
385.1	385.2	408.8
409.7	423.2	426.0

427.9	428.3	431.7
432.0	433.9	438.5
438.7	443.7	444.3

S<sub>20</sub>:

11.2	14.6	18.3
23.3	24.3	27.2
30.1	42.2	43.8
46.3	50.2	64.8
73.2	79.2	87.4
93.2	107.2	125.0
139.4	161.8	169.4
178.3	178.7	201.1
210.1	223.7	236.7
238.5	239.9	252.6
253.3	263.4	266.0
284.3	339.4	348.37
350.3	370.5	374.4
396.1	399.6	418.9
419.4	421.8	424.6
427.1	432.3	432.6
433.9	434.2	437.8

S<sub>21</sub>:

12.9	14.0	20.6
25.1	27.5	28.6
32.1	35.4	41.4
45.8	53.3	54.4
59.6	68.6	78.6
91.2	104.4	121.1
136.3	145.3	157.9
168.6	169.7	182.9
194.9	204.5	209.6
222.4	231.3	234.7
240.4	246.1	261.0
262.6	265.9	271.7
339.6	340.8	355.4
356.3	378.0	380.8
402.2	403.6	420.6
421.3	426.0	427.8
431.5	432.6	434.2
435.2	435.8	440.7
443.6	444.4	449.2

Table S1. Fragmentation energies and fission products of  $S_n$  molecules with  $n = 2 - 21$ .

Molecule	Fission products	Fragmentation energy, eV
$S_2$	$S_1 + S_1$	4.07
$S_3$	$S_1 + S_2$	1.98
$S_4$	$S_2 + S_2$	0.28
$S_5$	$S_2 + S_3$	0.90
$S_6$	$S_2 + S_4$	1.30
$S_7$	$S_2 + S_5$	1.19
$S_8$	$S_2 + S_6$	1.09
$S_9$	$S_2 + S_7$	0.72
$S_{10}$	$S_2 + S_8$	0.42
$S_{11}$	$S_2 + S_9$	0.69
$S_{12}$	$S_6 + S_6$	0.83
$S_{13}$	$S_6 + S_7$	0.50
$S_{14}$	$S_6 + S_8$	0.34
$S_{15}$	$S_7 + S_8$	0.20
$S_{16}$	$S_8 + S_8$	-0.13
$S_{17}$	$S_8 + S_9$	0.20
$S_{18}$	$S_8 + S_{10}$	0.29
$S_{19}$	$S_8 + S_{11}$	0.27
$S_{20}$	$S_8 + S_{12}$	-0.06
$S_{21}$	$S_8 + S_{13}$	0.20