

Supporting Information for

Benchmark computational investigations for the basic model of the salt-water complex: NaCl(H₂O) and its anion NaCl(H₂O)⁻

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S1. The principle of the IGMH method

In the IMGH analysis,¹ the interaction regions of different intensities are shown by equivalent surfaces with different δg function values, and $\text{sign}(\lambda_2)\rho$ is used as the mapping function to visually distinguish the types of interactions, in which ρ is the electron density and λ_2 is the second eigenvalue of the Hessian matrix of ρ . The δg function is given by the following equation in the general three-dimensional case,

$$\delta g(\mathbf{r}) = g^{\text{IGMH}}(\mathbf{r}) - g(\mathbf{r}) \quad (1)$$

with

$$g(\mathbf{r}) = \left| \sum_i \nabla \rho_i^{\text{Hirsh}}(\mathbf{r}) \right| \quad (2)$$

$$g^{\text{IGMH}}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_i \left| \nabla \rho_i^{\text{Hirsh}}(\mathbf{r}) \right| \quad (3)$$

where g represents gradient, which is the sum of atomic electron density gradient; r denotes Cartesian coordinate vector, and ρ_i^{Hirsh} is the electron density of the i atom, obtained from the actual electron density of the system by means of the Hirshfeld atomic space division; g^{IGMH} is the IGMH-type electron density gradient, which is equal to the sum of the absolute values of the electron density gradient of atoms. At the equilibrium structure of the molecule, the greater the density overlap between atoms, the higher the δg peak and the stronger the interaction.

In IGMH, δg^{inter} and δg^{intra} are defined to exhibit specific inter-fragment and intra-fragment interactions:

$$\delta g^{\text{inter}}(\mathbf{r}) = g^{\text{IGMH,inter}}(\mathbf{r}) - g^{\text{inter}}(\mathbf{r}) \quad (4)$$

$$\delta g^{\text{intra}}(\mathbf{r}) = \delta g(\mathbf{r}) - \delta g^{\text{inter}}(\mathbf{r}) \quad (5)$$

Here g^{inter} is the amplitude obtained by superimposing the density gradients of all fragments, $g^{\text{IGMH,inter}}$ is the sum of the amplitudes of the density gradients of all fragments, and their specific expression take the form:

$$g^{\text{inter}}(\mathbf{r}) = \left| \sum_A \sum_{i \in A} \nabla \rho_i^{\text{Hirsh}}(\mathbf{r}) \right| \quad (6)$$

$$g^{\text{IGMH,inter}}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_A \left| \sum_{i \in A} \nabla \rho_i^{\text{Hirsh}}(\mathbf{r}) \right|, \quad (7)$$

where A stands for the sum running over all fragments with i for all atoms in the corresponding fragments.

Table S1. Geometry of the A1 isomer of neutral NaCl(H₂O) optimized at different levels.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|-----------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | 1.64015 | -0.80427 | -0.04861 |
| | H | 2.17123 | -1.56144 | 0.19735 |
| | H | 0.70122 | -1.09054 | -0.02683 |
| | Na | 0.62287 | 1.25900 | 0.00894 |
| | Cl | -1.33814 | -0.27675 | 0.00813 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | 1.63610 | -0.79350 | -0.02990 |
| | H | 2.18240 | -1.55344 | 0.17688 |
| | H | 0.69639 | -1.08881 | -0.01444 |
| | Na | 0.62821 | 1.22657 | 0.00546 |
| | Cl | -1.34576 | -0.26482 | 0.00098 |
| B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | 1.64255 | -0.78054 | -0.02453 |
| | H | 2.20279 | -1.54070 | 0.14477 |
| | H | 0.70382 | -1.08535 | -0.01225 |
| | Na | 0.62461 | 1.21533 | 0.00451 |
| | Cl | -1.34810 | -0.26461 | 0.00083 |
| MP2/AVTZ | O | 1.61046 | -0.84142 | -0.04490 |
| | H | 2.09724 | -1.60645 | 0.26904 |
| | H | 0.65367 | -1.08415 | -0.02157 |
| | Na | 0.65138 | 1.25718 | 0.00813 |
| | Cl | -1.34116 | -0.25923 | 0.00131 |
| DSDPBEP86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | 1.62937 | -0.80648 | -0.04142 |
| | H | 2.15068 | -1.55727 | 0.24794 |
| | H | 0.68391 | -1.08393 | -0.02150 |
| | Na | 0.63075 | 1.23535 | 0.00747 |
| | Cl | -1.34163 | -0.26446 | 0.00134 |
| M062X-D3/AVTZ | O | 1.64699 | -0.75906 | -0.00002 |
| | H | 2.24698 | -1.50515 | 0.00011 |
| | H | 0.72844 | -1.10326 | -0.00001 |
| | Na | 0.60951 | 1.20306 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | -1.34447 | -0.26781 | 0.00000 |
| LC- ω PBE/AVTZ | O | 1.63170 | -0.78157 | -0.00001 |
| | H | 2.18728 | -1.56053 | 0.00004 |
| | H | 0.69140 | -1.07262 | -0.00000 |
| | Na | 0.61584 | 1.22169 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | -1.33567 | -0.26782 | 0.00000 |

Table S2. Geometry of the A2 isomer of neutral NaCl(H₂O) optimized at different levels.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|-----------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | 0.00092 | 0.01996 | 0.00242 |
| | H | -0.00193 | -0.02316 | 0.95845 |
| | H | 0.93996 | 0.01360 | -0.28431 |
| | Na | -0.26057 | 0.79758 | -2.14752 |
| | Cl | 2.20201 | 0.44313 | -2.02932 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -1.63610 | -0.79350 | -0.02989 |
| | H | -2.18240 | -1.55345 | 0.17686 |
| | H | -0.69639 | -1.08881 | -0.01444 |
| | Na | -0.62821 | 1.22657 | 0.00546 |
| | Cl | 1.34576 | -0.26482 | 0.00098 |
| B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -1.64255 | -0.78054 | -0.02453 |
| | H | -2.20279 | -1.54070 | 0.14476 |
| | H | -0.70382 | -1.08535 | -0.01225 |
| | Na | -0.62461 | 1.21533 | 0.00451 |
| | Cl | 1.34810 | -0.26461 | 0.00083 |
| MP2/AVTZ | O | -1.61046 | -0.84142 | -0.04489 |
| | H | -2.09725 | -1.60646 | 0.26900 |
| | H | -0.65367 | -1.08415 | -0.02157 |
| | Na | -0.65138 | 1.25718 | 0.00813 |
| | Cl | 1.34116 | -0.25923 | 0.00131 |
| DSDPBEP86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -1.62937 | -0.80648 | -0.04142 |
| | H | -2.15068 | -1.55727 | 0.24794 |
| | H | -0.68391 | -1.08393 | -0.02150 |
| | Na | -0.63075 | 1.23535 | 0.00747 |
| | Cl | 1.34163 | -0.26446 | 0.00134 |
| M062X-D3/AVTZ | O | -1.64699 | -0.75906 | -0.00002 |
| | H | -2.24698 | -1.50515 | 0.00011 |
| | H | -0.72844 | -1.10326 | -0.00001 |
| | Na | -0.60951 | 1.20306 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | 1.34447 | -0.26781 | 0.00000 |
| LC- ω PBE/AVTZ | O | -1.63170 | -0.78157 | -0.00001 |
| | H | -2.18728 | -1.56053 | 0.00004 |
| | H | -0.69140 | -1.07262 | -0.00000 |
| | Na | -0.61584 | 1.22169 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | 1.33567 | -0.26782 | 0.00000 |

Table S3. Geometry of the B isomer of neutral NaCl(H₂O) optimized at different levels.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|-----------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | 0.00009 | -0.04063 | 2.96637 |
| | H | 0.00004 | -0.84080 | 3.50007 |
| | H | 0.00066 | 0.68348 | 3.59922 |
| | Na | -0.00019 | 0.07065 | 0.53810 |
| | Cl | 0.00006 | -0.02300 | -1.88945 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -0.00134 | 2.77817 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -0.76795 | 3.36080 | 0.00000 |
| | H | 0.76455 | 3.36176 | 0.00000 |
| | Na | 0.00000 | 0.43073 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | 0.00083 | -1.98152 | 0.00000 |
| B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -0.00025 | 2.73844 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -0.76750 | 3.31982 | 0.00000 |
| | H | 0.76686 | 3.32000 | 0.00000 |
| | Na | 0.00000 | 0.43904 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | 0.00016 | -1.96334 | 0.00000 |
| MP2/AVTZ | O | -0.00007 | 2.84288 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -0.76387 | 3.43090 | 0.00000 |
| | H | 0.76369 | 3.43095 | 0.00000 |
| | Na | 0.00000 | 0.42295 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | 0.00004 | -2.01514 | 0.00000 |
| DSDPBEP86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | 0.00004 | 2.80208 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -0.76566 | 3.38696 | 0.00000 |
| | H | 0.76575 | 3.38694 | 0.00000 |
| | Na | 0.00000 | 0.42495 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | -0.00002 | -1.99206 | 0.00000 |
| M062X-D3/AVTZ | O | 0.00001 | 2.71828 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -0.76630 | 3.29779 | 0.00000 |
| | H | 0.76632 | 3.29778 | 0.00000 |
| | Na | 0.00000 | 0.43788 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | -0.00001 | -1.9505 | 0.00000 |
| LC- ω PBE/AVTZ | O | -0.00006 | 2.74775 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -0.76663 | 3.32615 | 0.00000 |
| | H | 0.76648 | 3.32619 | 0.00000 |
| | Na | 0.00000 | 0.42972 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | 0.00004 | -1.96243 | 0.00000 |

Table S4. Geometry of the A1⁻ isomer of anion NaCl(H₂O)⁻ optimized at different levels.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|-----------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | -0.05757 | -1.23026 | -1.49182 |
| | H | 0.79529 | -1.60089 | -1.72894 |
| | H | -0.04886 | -1.19636 | -0.50899 |
| | Na | 0.00451 | 1.20663 | -0.92674 |
| | Cl | 0.00231 | -0.14821 | 1.33755 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ) /AVTZ | O | 1.53533 | -1.04438 | -0.10330 |
| | H | 1.82252 | -1.39531 | 0.74466 |
| | H | 0.54962 | -1.09445 | -0.07908 |
| | Na | -1.37507 | -0.2001 | 0.00468 |
| | Cl | 0.79285 | 1.29511 | 0.00739 |
| B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | 1.54389 | -1.03520 | -0.10369 |
| | H | 1.83480 | -1.36562 | 0.75278 |
| | H | 0.55682 | -1.09270 | -0.08167 |
| | Na | -1.38094 | -0.19943 | 0.00489 |
| | Cl | 0.79392 | 1.28456 | 0.00684 |
| MP2/AVTZ | O | 1.49771 | -1.09623 | -0.10300 |
| | H | 1.75390 | -1.48251 | 0.73980 |
| | H | 0.50866 | -1.09493 | -0.0788 |
| | Na | 0.82036 | 1.32156 | 0.00830 |
| | Cl | -1.36872 | -0.18764 | 0.00422 |
| DSDPBEP86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | 1.53208 | -1.04843 | -0.10327 |
| | H | 1.80874 | -1.39973 | 0.74789 |
| | H | 0.54593 | -1.09104 | -0.08195 |
| | Na | 0.78514 | 1.30299 | 0.00747 |
| | Cl | -1.36752 | -0.20322 | 0.00459 |
| M062X-D3/AVTZ | O | 1.58040 | -0.99363 | -0.10354 |
| | H | 1.86705 | -1.23279 | 0.78197 |
| | H | 0.60368 | -1.09749 | -0.09366 |
| | Na | 0.74220 | 1.27451 | 0.00420 |
| | Cl | -1.36930 | -0.22002 | 0.00552 |
| LC- ω PBE/AVTZ | O | 1.52936 | -1.04434 | -0.10192 |
| | H | 1.80360 | -1.40017 | 0.74511 |
| | H | 0.54362 | -1.07902 | -0.09345 |
| | Na | 0.77487 | 1.30416 | 0.00751 |
| | Cl | -1.35916 | -0.20658 | 0.00477 |

Table S5. Geometry of the A2⁻ isomer of anion NaCl(H₂O)⁻ optimized at different levels.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|-----------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | -0.05703 | 1.22897 | -1.49291 |
| | H | 0.79604 | 1.59916 | -1.72998 |
| | H | -0.0486 | 1.19583 | -0.51006 |
| | Na | 0.00406 | -1.20767 | -0.92547 |
| | Cl | 0.00186 | 0.14912 | 1.33744 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -1.53534 | -1.04439 | -0.10330 |
| | H | -1.82253 | -1.39531 | 0.74466 |
| | H | -0.54963 | -1.09445 | -0.07908 |
| | Na | -0.79284 | 1.295121 | 0.00739 |
| | Cl | 1.37507 | -0.20009 | 0.00468 |
| B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -1.54389 | -1.03520 | -0.10369 |
| | H | -1.83479 | -1.36562 | 0.75277 |
| | H | -0.55682 | -1.09270 | -0.08167 |
| | Na | -0.79393 | 1.28455 | 0.00684 |
| | Cl | 1.38094 | -0.19942 | 0.00489 |
| MP2/AVTZ | O | -1.49769 | -1.09624 | -0.10300 |
| | H | -1.75391 | -1.48255 | 0.73978 |
| | H | -0.50864 | -1.09494 | -0.07881 |
| | Na | -0.82040 | 1.32154 | 0.00830 |
| | Cl | 1.36873 | -0.18762 | 0.00422 |
| DSDPBEP86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -1.53209 | -1.04843 | -0.10327 |
| | H | -1.80875 | -1.39972 | 0.74790 |
| | H | -0.54594 | -1.09104 | -0.08195 |
| | Na | -0.78512 | 1.30300 | 0.00747 |
| | Cl | 1.36752 | -0.20322 | 0.00459 |
| M062X-D3/AVTZ | O | -1.58038 | -0.99365 | -0.10354 |
| | H | -1.86700 | -1.23281 | 0.78197 |
| | H | -0.60365 | -1.09748 | -0.09367 |
| | Na | -0.74224 | 1.27449 | 0.00420 |
| | Cl | 1.36931 | -0.22000 | 0.00552 |
| LC- ω PBE/AVTZ | O | -1.52936 | -1.04434 | -0.10192 |
| | H | -1.80360 | -1.40016 | 0.74511 |
| | H | -0.54362 | -1.07902 | -0.09345 |
| | Na | -0.77487 | 1.30416 | 0.00751 |
| | Cl | 1.35916 | -0.20658 | 0.00477 |

Table S6. Geometry of the B⁻ isomer of anion NaCl(H₂O)⁻ optimized at different levels.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|-----------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | -2.76960 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -3.37020 | 0.76419 | -0.00001 |
| | H | -3.37020 | -0.76419 | -0.00001 |
| | Na | -0.45679 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | 2.04515 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -2.74597 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -3.34481 | 0.76933 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -3.34481 | -0.76933 | 0.00000 |
| | Na | -0.48670 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | 2.00065 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -2.72972 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -3.32678 | 0.77340 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -3.32678 | -0.77340 | 0.00000 |
| | Na | -0.48938 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | 1.99262 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| MP2/AVTZ | O | -2.79717 | 0.00000 | -0.09223 |
| | H | -3.37349 | 0.762352 | 0.09550 |
| | H | -3.37349 | -0.76235 | 0.09550 |
| | Na | -0.48366 | 0.00000 | 0.09155 |
| | Cl | 2.02615 | 0.00000 | -0.02707 |
| DSDPBEP86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -2.75759 | 0.00000 | -0.05904 |
| | H | -3.34606 | 0.765812 | 0.063884 |
| | H | -3.34606 | -0.76581 | 0.063884 |
| | Na | -0.48252 | 0.00000 | 0.057244 |
| | Cl | 2.00356 | 0.00000 | -0.01677 |
| M062X-D3/AVTZ | O | -2.71137 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -3.30459 | 0.76982 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -3.30459 | -0.76982 | 0.00000 |
| | Na | -0.484 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | 1.977889 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| LC- ω PBE/AVTZ | O | -2.72218 | 0.00000 | 0.00002 |
| | H | -3.31931 | 0.76412 | -0.00002 |
| | H | -3.31931 | -0.76412 | -0.00002 |
| | Na | -0.47694 | 0.00000 | -0.00002 |
| | Cl | 1.98014 | 0.00000 | 0.00001 |

Table S7. Geometry of the Cl^- isomer of anion $\text{NaCl}(\text{H}_2\text{O})^-$ optimized at different levels.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|-----------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | -0.02887 | -0.61909 | -2.85438 |
| | H | 0.80742 | -1.06281 | -2.70562 |
| | H | -0.15934 | -0.14489 | -2.01292 |
| | Na | 0.01881 | -0.67647 | 2.14680 |
| | Cl | -0.03072 | 0.75604 | 0.02888 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ) /AVTZ | O | -2.71955 | -0.55949 | -0.00001 |
| | H | -2.38221 | -1.45829 | 0.00005 |
| | H | -1.89967 | -0.02535 | -0.00001 |
| | Na | 0.15180 | 0.84354 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | 2.13252 | -0.76186 | 0.00000 |
| B3LYP-D3(BJ) /AVTZ | O | -2.54905 | -0.61675 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -2.14997 | -1.49125 | 0.00003 |
| | H | -1.77049 | -0.02067 | -0.00001 |
| | Na | 0.21953 | 0.99307 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | 1.87098 | -0.94875 | 0.00000 |
| MP2/AVTZ | O | 2.77152 | -0.55230 | -0.09204 |
| | H | 2.69354 | -0.98703 | 0.76105 |
| | H | 1.90343 | -0.10501 | -0.16830 |
| | Na | -2.25530 | -0.66865 | -0.01392 |
| | Cl | -0.11534 | 0.75680 | 0.01745 |
| DSDPBEP86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | 2.73727 | -0.56050 | -0.07929 |
| | H | 2.56111 | -1.15701 | 0.65220 |
| | H | 1.89335 | -0.07137 | -0.15312 |
| | Na | -2.18004 | -0.72039 | -0.01670 |
| | Cl | -0.13954 | 0.80215 | 0.01876 |
| M062X-D3/AVTZ | O | ... | ... | ... |
| | H | ... | ... | ... |
| | H | ... | ... | ... |
| | Na | ... | ... | ... |
| | Cl | ... | ... | ... |
| LC- ω PBE/AVTZ | O | -2.82397 | -0.49617 | 0.08000 |
| | H | -2.67228 | -1.10266 | -0.64584 |
| | H | -1.96283 | -0.04499 | 0.16858 |
| | Na | 2.27385 | -0.63237 | 0.01838 |
| | Cl | 0.13027 | 0.71018 | -0.02147 |

Table S8. Geometry of the C2⁻ isomer of anion NaCl(H₂O)⁻ optimized at different levels.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|-----------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | -0.04909 | 0.64558 | -2.83892 |
| | H | 0.82076 | 1.03127 | -2.72468 |
| | H | -0.17015 | 0.16773 | -1.99810 |
| | Na | 0.00795 | -0.76265 | 0.02633 |
| | Cl | -0.00661 | 0.67424 | 2.14215 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | ... | ... | ... |
| | H | ... | ... | ... |
| | H | ... | ... | ... |
| | Na | ... | ... | ... |
| | Cl | ... | ... | ... |
| B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | ... | ... | ... |
| | H | ... | ... | ... |
| | H | ... | ... | ... |
| | Na | ... | ... | ... |
| | Cl | ... | ... | ... |
| MP2/AVTZ | O | -2.77150 | -0.55229 | -0.09204 |
| | H | -2.69357 | -0.98701 | 0.76106 |
| | H | -1.90344 | -0.10501 | -0.16831 |
| | Na | 2.25532 | -0.66863 | -0.01392 |
| | Cl | 0.11534 | 0.75678 | 0.01745 |
| DSDPBEP86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -2.73728 | -0.56048 | -0.07928 |
| | H | -2.56106 | -1.15715 | 0.65207 |
| | H | -1.89337 | -0.07134 | -0.15309 |
| | Na | 2.18005 | -0.72038 | -0.01670 |
| | Cl | 0.13954 | 0.80215 | 0.01876 |
| M062X-D3/AVTZ | O | ... | ... | ... |
| | H | ... | ... | ... |
| | H | ... | ... | ... |
| | Na | ... | ... | ... |
| | Cl | ... | ... | ... |
| LC- ω PBE/AVTZ | O | -2.82394 | -0.49620 | -0.08001 |
| | H | -2.67230 | -1.10253 | 0.64598 |
| | H | -1.96280 | -0.04503 | -0.16861 |
| | Na | 2.27381 | -0.63240 | -0.01838 |
| | Cl | 0.13028 | 0.71021 | 0.02146 |

Table S9. Geometry of TS1 in the anion $\text{NaCl}(\text{H}_2\text{O})^-$ isomerization reaction pathway.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|--------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | -2.18039 | -0.61794 | -0.10938 |
| | H | -2.94662 | -0.43105 | 0.4492 |
| | H | -1.75883 | -1.39496 | 0.27895 |
| | Na | -0.48035 | 1.05743 | 0.03113 |
| | Cl | 1.66939 | -0.26646 | -0.02263 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -2.16701 | -0.59090 | -0.10339 |
| | H | -2.92951 | -0.44513 | 0.47596 |
| | H | -1.71354 | -1.37089 | 0.24639 |
| | Na | -0.50899 | 1.04556 | 0.00622 |
| | Cl | 1.62224 | -0.29165 | 0.00214 |

Table S10. Geometry of TS2 in the anion $\text{NaCl}(\text{H}_2\text{O})^-$ isomerization reaction pathway.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|--------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | 0.00000 | 1.24368 | -1.59757 |
| | H | 0.73144 | 1.29856 | -0.96931 |
| | H | -0.73144 | 1.29856 | -0.96932 |
| | Na | 0.00000 | -1.30349 | -0.82023 |
| | Cl | 0.00000 | 0.21017 | 1.30796 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -1.34346 | 1.42571 | 0.00000 |
| | H | -1.33938 | 0.79603 | 0.73497 |
| | H | -1.33938 | 0.79603 | -0.73497 |
| | Na | 1.22059 | 0.93288 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | 0.00000 | -1.36820 | 0.00000 |

Table S11. Geometry of TS3 in the anion NaCl(H₂O)⁻ isomerization reaction pathway.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|--------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | 0.00000 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| | H | 0.00000 | 0.00000 | 0.95732 |
| | H | 0.95136 | 0.00000 | -0.25610 |
| | Na | 0.00000 | 0.00016 | -2.4660 |
| | Cl | 2.51042 | 0.00012 | -1.65398 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | 1.54137 | -0.98295 | 0.00000 |
| | H | 1.84516 | -1.89285 | 0.00001 |
| | H | 0.55350 | -1.03977 | 0.00000 |
| | Na | 0.77463 | 1.31356 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | -1.36768 | -0.21488 | 0.00000 |

Table S12. Geometry of TS4 in the anion $\text{NaCl}(\text{H}_2\text{O})^-$ isomerization reaction pathway.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|--------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | -2.27628 | 0.44472 | -0.07509 |
| | H | -2.28284 | 0.65100 | 0.85908 |
| | H | -1.52330 | -0.16820 | -0.22176 |
| | Na | 1.26392 | 1.33696 | 0.00721 |
| | Cl | 0.48826 | -1.08148 | 0.02742 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -2.26199 | 0.44910 | -0.09595 |
| | H | -2.32353 | 0.63304 | 0.84465 |
| | H | -1.47390 | -0.13084 | -0.15479 |
| | Na | 1.25041 | 1.33897 | -0.00461 |
| | Cl | 0.47876 | -1.10727 | 0.00756 |

Table S13. Geometry of TS5 in the anion $\text{NaCl}(\text{H}_2\text{O})^-$ isomerization reaction pathway.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|--------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | -2.76910 | -0.53665 | 0.00037 |
| | H | -2.45214 | -1.44104 | -0.00041 |
| | H | -1.93750 | -0.02853 | 0.00026 |
| | Na | 2.27713 | -0.69664 | 0.00022 |
| | Cl | 0.16450 | 0.74140 | -0.00041 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | 3.13887 | 0.00002 | 0.00012 |
| | H | 2.50993 | 0.73199 | 0.00007 |
| | H | 2.50995 | -0.73197 | 0.00007 |
| | Na | -2.62086 | 0.00002 | 0.00012 |
| | Cl | -0.07655 | -0.00002 | -0.00015 |

Table S14. Geometry of TS1' in the neutral NaCl(H₂O) isomerization reaction pathway.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|--------------------|----|----------|----------|---------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | ... | ... | ... |
| | H | ... | ... | ... |
| | H | ... | ... | ... |
| | Na | ... | ... | ... |
| | Cl | ... | ... | ... |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | 1.92731 | 1.90188 | 0.00000 |
| | H | 2.08033 | 2.85189 | 0.00000 |
| | H | 2.80251 | 1.49964 | 0.00000 |
| | Na | 0.00000 | 0.57396 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | -1.19420 | -1.52236 | 0.00000 |

Table S15. Geometry of TS2' in the neutral NaCl(H₂O) isomerization reaction pathway.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|--------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | 0.00000 | 0.95081 | -1.80306 |
| | H | 0.73900 | 1.26937 | -1.27008 |
| | H | -0.73908 | 1.26930 | -1.27017 |
| | Na | 0.00000 | -1.18232 | -0.67128 |
| | Cl | 0.00000 | 0.26543 | 1.32121 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | 1.98916 | -0.04787 | 0.00000 |
| | H | 1.69811 | 0.49691 | 0.74363 |
| | H | 1.69811 | 0.49691 | -0.74363 |
| | Na | 0.00000 | -1.33512 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | -1.13586 | 0.82797 | 0.00000 |

Table S16. Geometry of TS3' in the neutral NaCl(H₂O) isomerization reaction pathway.

| | | X | Y | Z |
|--------------------|----|----------|----------|----------|
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | O | -1.59952 | -0.79648 | -0.01972 |
| | H | -2.16158 | -1.56420 | -0.02992 |
| | H | -0.68841 | -1.16514 | 0.07354 |
| | Na | -0.63550 | 1.27146 | 0.00745 |
| | Cl | 1.36926 | -0.21523 | -0.03133 |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | O | -1.65599 | -0.78700 | -0.00001 |
| | H | -2.09606 | -1.63945 | 0.00001 |
| | H | -0.69117 | -1.00556 | -0.00005 |
| | Na | -0.61133 | 1.23663 | 0.00000 |
| | Cl | 1.33881 | -0.27424 | 0.00000 |

Table S17. The harmonic frequencies of the isomers of $\text{NaCl}(\text{H}_2\text{O})^-$ and $\text{NaCl}(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ at different levels. The values to the right of the forward slash indicate that the harmonic frequencies were scaled by a frequency correction factor.

| species | note | frequency | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | v1 | v2 | v3 | v4 | v5 | v6 | v7 | v8 | v9 |
| NaCl ⁺ | CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | 3941 | 3831 | 1646 | 266 | | | | | |
| H ₂ O | b2plyp-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | 3924 | 3812 | 1635 | 263 | | | | | |
| | b3lyp-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | 3899/3774 | 3796/3675 | 1627/1575 | 260/252 | | | | | |
| | mp2/AVTZ | 3948/3789 | 3822/3668 | 1628/1563 | 262/251 | | | | | |
| | dsdpbep86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | 3939/3928 | 3824/3814 | 1640/1636 | 269/268 | | | | | |
| NaCl ⁺ | CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | 3941 | 3831 | 1646 | 350 | | | | | |
| H ₂ O | b2plyp-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^a | 3924 | 3812 | 1635 | 355 | | | | | |
| | b3lyp-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^b | 3899/3774 | 3796/3675 | 1627/1575 | 355/344 | | | | | |
| | mp2/AVTZ ^c | 3948/3789 | 3822/3668 | 1628/1563 | 347/333 | | | | | |
| | dsdpbep86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^d | 3939/3928 | 3824/3814 | 1640/1636 | 355/354 | | | | | |
| A ⁻ | CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | 3877 | 3430 | 1654 | 783 | 379 | 290 | 246 | 182 | 150 |
| | b2plyp-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^a | 3848 | 3358 | 1637 | 785 | 375 | 296 | 245 | 176 | 153 |
| | b3lyp-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^b | 3811/3689 | 3324/3217 | 1625/1573 | 778/753 | 370/358 | 299/289 | 242/234 | 171/165 | 152/147 |
| | mp2/AVTZ ^c | 3880/3724 | 3348/3214 | 1638/1572 | 808/775 | 388/372 | 292/280 | 248/238 | 184/177 | 145/139 |
| | dsdpbep86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^d | 3871/3860 | 3377/3367 | 1644/1640 | 794/792 | 376/375 | 297/296 | 250/250 | 183/183 | 155/155 |
| B ⁻ | CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | 3658 | 3623 | 1594 | 360 | 348 | 227 | 172 | 78 | 62 |
| | b2plyp-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^a | 3580 | 3536 | 1569 | 350 | 293 | 207 | 130 | 51 | 38 |
| | b3lyp-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^b | 3512/3399 | 3486/3375 | 1548/1498 | 350/339 | 284/275 | 204/198 | 125/121 | 49/47 | 39/38 |
| | mp2/AVTZ ^c | 3662/3515 | 3601/3457 | 1582/1518 | 340/326 | 309/296 | 209/201 | 158/152 | 55/53 | 42/40 |
| | dsdpbep86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^d | 3639/3629 | 3593/3583 | 1585/1581 | 352/351 | 301/300 | 211/211 | 138/138 | 51/51 | 31/31 |
| C ⁻ | CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | 3894 | 3600 | 1682 | 624 | 300 | 252 | 166 | 20 | 11 |
| | b2plyp-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^a | 3877 | 3530 | 1670 | 629 | 325 | 249 | 168 | 17 | 8 |
| | b3lyp-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^b | 3848/3725 | 3490/3378 | 1661/1608 | 626/606 | 338/327 | 245/237 | 169/136 | 33/32 | 17/17 |
| | mp2/AVTZ ^c | 3899/3742 | 3540/3398 | 1663/1596 | 646/620 | 322/309 | 250/240 | 170/163 | 37/35 | 15/14 |
| | dsdpbep86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^d | 3892/3881 | 3554/3545 | 1674/1669 | 633/631 | 315/314 | 255/255 | 169/169 | 29/29 | 16/16 |
| A | CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | 3923 | 3474 | 1648 | 661 | 503 | 319 | 248 | 182 | 82 |
| | b2plyp-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^a | 3905 | 3411 | 1633 | 653 | 511 | 322 | 256 | 177 | 71 |
| | b3lyp-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^b | 3883/3759 | 3372/3264 | 1621/1569 | 642/621 | 513/497 | 321/311 | 258/250 | 174/169 | 58/56 |
| | mp2/AVTZ ^c | 3917/3759 | 3399/3263 | 1635/1569 | 694/667 | 505/485 | 317/305 | 245/235 | 186/179 | 114/109 |
| | dsdpbep86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^d | 3917/3907 | 3423/3414 | 1641/1637 | 673/672 | 503/502 | 324/323 | 256/255 | 183/182 | 101/101 |
| B | CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | 3918 | 3900 | 1664 | 358 | 342 | 227 | 204 | 32 | 16 |
| | b2plyp-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^a | 3902 | 3862 | 1656 | 368 | 345 | 229 | 209 | 28 | 7 |
| | b3lyp-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^b | 3884/3760 | 3796/3675 | 1650/1597 | 372/360 | 348/337 | 236/229 | 200/193 | 32/31 | 13/13 |
| | mp2/AVTZ ^c | 3920/3763 | 3875/3719 | 1649/1582 | 357/342 | 337/324 | 212/204 | 202/194 | 25/24 | 9/9 |
| | dsdpbep86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^d | 3914/3904 | 3898/3887 | 1659/1654 | 367/366 | 341/340 | 219/219 | 210/210 | 25/25 | 4/4 |

^a Since the B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ frequency correction factor is 0.9999, which is close to 1,² and the result is rounded, the non-resonant and resonant frequencies are almost identical.

^b Frequency correction factor 0.9680 for B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ.³

^c Frequency correction factor of 0.9598 for MP2/AVTZ.⁴

^d Frequency correction factor of 0.9973 for DSDPBEP86-D3BJ/AVTZ.³

Table S18. ADCH charge analysis for different isomers of the $\text{NaCl}(\text{H}_2\text{O})^-$ and $\text{NaCl}(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ complex.

| Atoms | ADCH charges | | | | | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|--------------|
| | $\text{NaCl} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ | $\text{NaCl}^- + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ | A | A^- | B | B^- | C^- |
| O | -0.6790 | -0.6790 | -0.4591 | -0.3394 | -0.4299 | -0.0064 | -0.6933 |
| 1H | 0.3395 | 0.3395 | 0.3642 | 0.1092 | 0.3211 | -0.1915 | 0.3116 |
| H | 0.3395 | 0.3395 | 0.0184 | 0.3318 | 0.3211 | -0.1915 | 0.2584 |
| Na | 0.7973 | -0.5921 | 0.7090 | -0.6448 | 0.4626 | 0.1314 | -0.5632 |
| Cl | -0.7973 | -0.4079 | -0.6325 | -0.4568 | -0.6749 | -0.7420 | -0.3135 |

Note: Structure based on B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ level optimization, 1H in the isomer indicates the H atom away from the Cl atom. ADCH charges⁵ were calculated using Multiwfn and the results were retained to four decimal places.

Table S19. Comparison between theoretical and experimental energies, adiabatic detachment energy (ADE), for different isomers (in cm^{-1}).

| | Isomer | NaCl (H ₂ O) ⁻ | | | NaCl (H ₂ O) | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------|----------|
| | | A ⁻ | B ⁻ | C ⁻ | A1 | A2 | B |
| ΔE | Expt_1 ^a | 0 | 186(22) | 481(48) | 0 | 123(10) | 1821(24) |
| | B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-QZVPP ^a | 0 | 51 | 330 | 0 | 88 | 1604 |
| | LC- ω PBE/6-311++G(d,p) ^b | 0 | 234 | 274 | | 0 | 1839 |
| | B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | 0 | -44 | 186 | 0 | 0 | 1736 |
| | B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | 0 | -42 | 240 | 0 | 0 | 1880 |
| | B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^c | 0 | 798 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 869 |
| | MP2/AVTZ | 0 | -10 | 192 | 0 | 0 | 1620 |
| | DSDPBEP86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | 0 | -25 | 179 | 0 | 0 | 1669 |
| | CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | 0 | 49 | 155 | 0 | 3 | 1623 |
| | CCSD(T)/CBS | 0 | 37 | 133 | 0 | 0 | 1601 |
| | FPA | 0 | -12 | 282 | 0 | 0 | 1547 |
| | ADE | Expt_1 ^a | 3643(22) | 5278(17) | | | |
| Expt_2 ^b | | 3710(81) | 5081(65) | | | | |
| B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-QZVPP ^a | | 3726 | 5279 | | | | |
| LC- ω PBE/6-311++G(d,p) ^b | | | | | | | |
| B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | | 3672 | 5453 | | | | |
| B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | | 3692 | 5612 | | | | |
| B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^c | | 4912 | 6186 | | | | |
| MP2/AVTZ | | 3661 | 5290 | | | | |
| DSDPBEP86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | | 3665 | 5359 | | | | |
| CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | | 3637 | 5210 | | | | |
| CCSD(T)/CBS | | 3603 | 5162 | | | | |
| FPA | | 3670 | 5231 | | | | |
| VDE | Expt_1 ^a | | | 7680(200) | | | |
| | Expt_2 ^b | 4355(81) | 5162(65) | 7743(65) | | | |
| | B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-QZVPP ^a | | | 7857 | | | |
| | LC- ω PBE/6-311++G(d,p) ^b | 4275 | 5323 | 7501 | | | |
| | B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | 4408 | 5396 | 7748 | | | |
| | B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | 4391 | 5455 | 7812 | | | |
| | B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ ^c | 5947 | 6599 | 9518 | | | |
| | MP2/AVTZ | 4617 | 5387 | 7550 | | | |
| | DSDPBEP86-D3(BJ)/AVTZ | 4415 | 5376 | 7631 | | | |
| | CCSD(T)-F12a/AVTZ | 4503 | 5254 | 7563 | | | |
| | CCSD(T)/CBS | 4487 | 5233 | 7541 | | | |
| | FPA | 4822 | 5168 | 7954 | | | |

^a denotes density generalization calculations and experimental data by Lu and Ning.⁶

^b denotes theoretical calculations and experimental data by Hou et al.,⁷ and the numbers in the parentheses

indicate the experimental uncertainty.

^c the single point energies were calculated using the Beijing Density Function (BDF) software at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ level based on the structure obtained at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/AVTZ level (Gaussian 16).

Noted that since the isomer C⁻ cannot be obtained at the M062X-D3/aVTZ level and the A obtained by optimization at the LC- ω PBE/AVTZ level, with a structure like TS3, is a five-atom coplanar structure, which is inconsistent with the results of many previous studies, we do not consider the A and B calculation levels in the energy calculations and frequency analysis work.

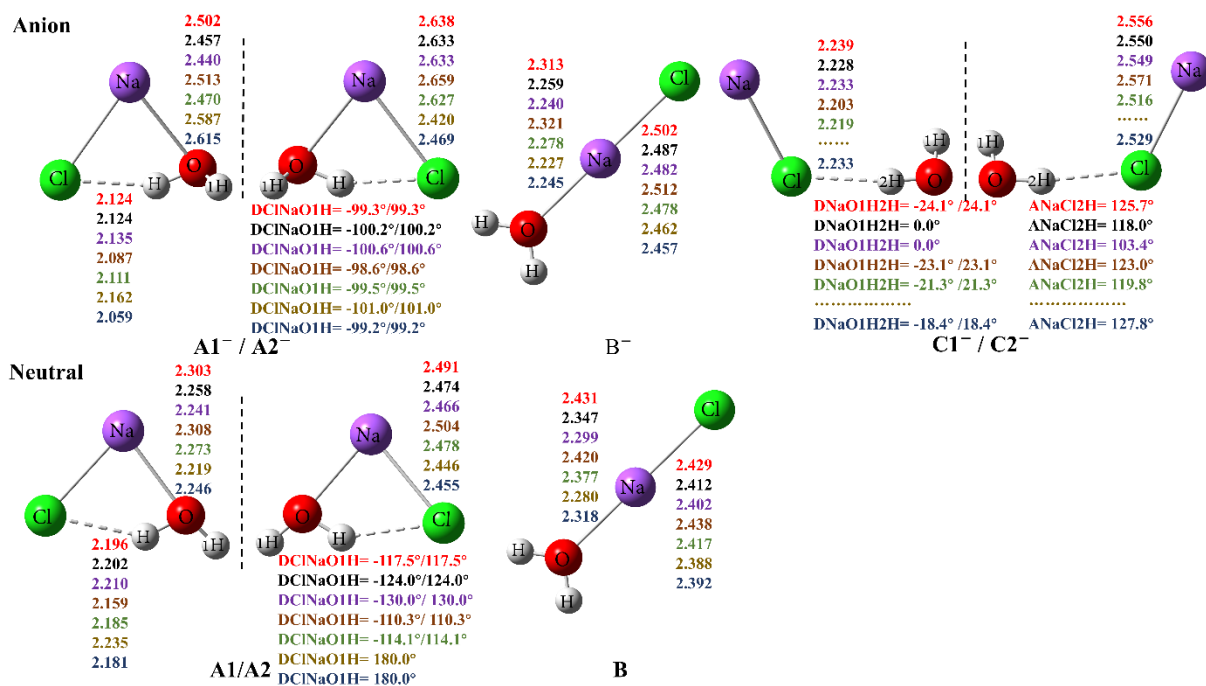


Fig. S1 Optimized geometries for isomers of $\text{NaCl}(\text{H}_2\text{O})^-$ and $\text{NaCl}(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ (lengths in Å and angles in °). The seven entries are determined by CCSD(T)-F12a/aVTZ (red), B2PLYP-D3(BJ)/aVTZ (black), B3LYP-D3(BJ)/aVTZ (purple), MP2/ aVTZ (brown), DSD-PBEP86-D3(BJ)/aVTZ (green), M062X-D3/aVTZ (olive green) and LC- ω PBE/aVTZ (navy blue).

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