

## Electronic Supporting Information

# Touching the density limits of energetic materials by molecular design

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### 1. The Optimized Cartesian coordinates for the designed compounds.

We conducted geometry optimization and frequency analysis for RDX,  $\beta$ -HMX,  $\epsilon$ -HNIW, ONC, and the designed molecules at the  $\omega$ B97XD/def2-TZVP level<sup>1,2</sup> in the gas phase using the Gaussian 16 (A.03) program.<sup>3</sup> The optimized structures of all compounds demonstrate true local energy minima on the potential energy surface and do not exhibit any imaginary frequencies.

**Table S1.** Optimized Cartesian coordinates for CEM-1 at the  $\omega$ B97XD/def2-TZVP level of theory

<b>CEM-1</b> (charge=0, multiplicity=1)			
atom	x	y	z
C	-0.63754	0.40423	1.40602
C	-0.4119	-1.14695	1.24408
C	-0.56566	-0.17432	-0.80948
C	0.91116	0.62139	1.42203
C	1.13001	-0.91756	1.24483
C	1.01073	0.05179	-0.80894
H	1.41347	0.21714	-1.798
H	-1.00743	-0.13298	-1.79602
N	1.59812	-1.0845	-0.12429
N	1.36417	1.11519	0.13705
N	-1.09826	0.83637	0.10267
N	-0.80296	-1.43656	-0.11721
H	1.7286	-1.46515	1.95999
H	1.35022	1.14292	2.26295
H	-0.82694	-1.84063	1.96275
H	-1.23294	0.79674	2.21904
N	-2.02822	-2.08324	-0.34371
O	-2.48832	-1.97122	-1.44999
O	-2.46236	-2.7441	0.56642
N	-2.44925	1.2101	-0.05451
O	-2.86559	1.21103	-1.18188
O	-3.02741	1.55371	0.94383
N	1.08117	2.43193	-0.20594
O	0.97027	3.20745	0.71062
O	1.03482	2.67686	-1.38668
N	2.98732	-1.24546	-0.30717
O	3.42485	-0.91419	-1.37761
O	3.58742	-1.76406	0.59901

**Table S2.** Optimized Cartesian coordinates for CEM-2 at the  $\omega$ B97XD/def2-TZVP level of theory

<b>CEM-2 (charge=0, multiplicity=1)</b>			
atom	x	y	z
C	1.11471	-0.07086	-1.05406
C	0.07096	-1.16486	-0.63651
C	0.54818	0.18786	1.13313
C	-0.05569	0.85791	-1.50715
C	-1.09298	-0.23003	-1.07505
C	-0.64699	1.14949	0.69504
H	-0.9916	1.78737	1.49645
H	0.83206	0.30321	2.16968
N	-1.67864	0.27962	0.15915
N	-0.28961	1.8885	-0.51901
N	1.62714	0.43974	0.20224
N	0.22707	-1.21128	0.78667
H	-1.8186	-0.6118	-1.77949
H	-0.04608	1.22055	-2.52659
H	1.88888	-0.32546	-1.76678
N	-0.79195	-1.83862	1.52726
O	-0.89153	-1.49178	2.67394
O	-1.41218	-2.69147	0.94962
N	2.91357	-0.02523	0.60832
O	3.1241	-0.01247	1.78875
O	3.66866	-0.31316	-0.27818
N	0.63767	2.92478	-0.41499
O	1.23896	3.19996	-1.42194
O	0.69892	3.47496	0.65582
N	-2.9739	0.85672	0.0568
O	-3.2563	1.66135	0.90166
O	-3.67142	0.43348	-0.82383
N	0.23725	-2.47368	-1.34058
O	-0.35646	-2.57709	-2.38854
O	1.0005	-3.26311	-0.85565

**Table S3.** Optimized Cartesian coordinates for CEM-3 at the  $\omega$ B97XD/def2-TZVP level of theory

<b>CEM-3 (charge=0, multiplicity=1)</b>			
atom	x	y	z
C	-1.01236	-0.64394	-1.23172
C	-0.9894	0.68095	-0.38715
C	-0.90897	-1.14801	0.96677
C	0.54125	-0.62542	-1.34308
C	0.58822	0.69816	-0.50492
C	0.6749	-1.11983	0.86943
H	1.15968	-1.63688	1.68768
H	-1.27277	-1.6805	1.83431
N	1.05764	0.30631	0.82039
N	1.0334	-1.63775	-0.4433
N	-1.39711	-1.67092	-0.28998
N	-1.42214	0.23069	0.89579
H	0.98675	-0.63837	-2.32912
H	-1.58364	-0.65047	-2.15148
N	-1.20617	1.06306	2.0203
O	-1.16335	0.49005	3.07631
O	-1.14587	2.23804	1.80065
N	-2.76419	-2.06468	-0.2972
O	-3.18101	-2.52117	0.73087
O	-3.33319	-1.96396	-1.34967
N	2.34652	-2.12377	-0.63294
O	2.75261	-2.11483	-1.76181
O	2.89025	-2.55898	0.34868
N	2.45745	0.48016	1.14924
O	2.7464	0.09141	2.24051
O	3.15672	1.00345	0.32817
N	-1.81018	1.77797	-0.99507
O	-1.31704	2.28583	-1.97509
O	-2.89613	1.98161	-0.53412
N	1.21526	1.93723	-1.07934
O	1.13899	2.91982	-0.39224
O	1.69847	1.83208	-2.17385

**Table S4.** Optimized Cartesian coordinates for CEM-4 at the  $\omega$ B97XD/def2-TZVP level of theory

<b>CEM-4</b> (charge=0, multiplicity=1)			
atom	x	y	z
C	0.99085	0.18428	-0.9979
C	0.18131	-1.10129	-0.60596
C	1.35708	-0.34009	1.18066
C	-0.21647	1.08655	-0.62072
C	-1.05427	-0.19241	-0.22449
C	0.11547	0.56356	1.57661
H	0.12959	0.86498	2.6149
H	2.03187	-0.52661	2.00441
N	-1.09662	-0.17367	1.23531
N	-0.01497	1.70818	0.6596
N	1.97948	0.31723	0.05048
N	0.87862	-1.57428	0.54318
H	1.37592	0.26733	-2.00743
N	0.24975	-2.53391	1.3758
O	0.62565	-2.53975	2.51737
O	-0.53692	-3.25758	0.83863
N	3.30791	-0.11713	-0.26573
O	3.97642	-0.44927	0.67073
O	3.61878	-0.03818	-1.41932
N	0.98884	2.70338	0.75008
O	1.2475	3.28684	-0.26539
O	1.4298	2.88316	1.85246
N	-2.25774	0.44989	1.87141
O	-2.11314	0.65645	3.0387
O	-3.2157	0.63945	1.18718
N	0.07898	-2.08763	-1.73694
O	-0.73827	-1.81281	-2.58
O	0.87519	-2.98187	-1.74731
N	-2.36406	-0.55841	-0.88702
O	-2.82544	-1.60128	-0.51524
O	-2.782	0.1916	-1.72069
N	-0.75877	2.01857	-1.67638
O	-1.52974	2.85261	-1.29774
O	-0.37225	1.8113	-2.79683

**Table S5.** Optimized Cartesian coordinates for CEM-5 at the  $\omega$ B97XD/def2-TZVP level of theory

<b>CEM-5 (charge=0, multiplicity=1)</b>			
atom	x	y	z
C	-1.10402	0.16627	0.4312
C	-0.17053	-1.10768	0.4353
C	-0.63673	-0.45959	-1.70157
C	0.17051	1.10768	0.43538
C	1.10399	-0.16627	0.43119
C	0.63673	0.45973	-1.70153
H	0.9788	0.70864	-2.69696
H	-0.9788	-0.70844	-2.69702
N	1.6609	-0.21778	-0.9162
N	0.40633	1.64495	-0.86891
N	-1.66093	0.21783	-0.91619
N	-0.40633	-1.64486	-0.86903
N	0.49054	-2.62483	-1.37228
O	0.53271	-2.70068	-2.56997
O	1.05249	-3.29041	-0.55292
N	-2.95264	-0.45093	-1.13386
O	-3.26222	-0.51435	-2.28442
O	-3.54793	-0.82101	-0.16986
N	-0.49051	2.62498	-1.37211
O	-1.05246	3.29052	-0.55272
O	-0.53265	2.70091	-2.5698
N	2.95266	0.45087	-1.1338
O	3.26206	0.51477	-2.28439
O	3.54819	0.82042	-0.16973
N	-0.39074	-2.12864	1.54148
O	0.26773	-1.98679	2.53339
O	-1.23697	-2.9433	1.3168
N	2.12845	-0.44435	1.51663
O	2.79257	-1.42159	1.3198
O	2.15052	0.30482	2.4489
N	0.39068	2.12854	1.54166
O	1.23711	2.94307	1.31719
O	-0.26801	1.98677	2.53342
N	-2.12842	0.44432	1.51668
O	-2.1503	-0.30474	2.44906
O	-2.79279	1.42136	1.31973

**Table S6.** Optimized Cartesian coordinates for RDX at the  $\omega$ B97XD/def2-TZVP level of theory

<b>RDX</b> (charge=0, multiplicity=1)			
atom	x	y	z
C	0.967103	-0.986793	0.213879
N	1.378162	0.354408	-0.175428
N	-0.382185	-1.370734	-0.175398
H	1.676792	-1.711226	-0.185443
H	1.018707	-1.039492	1.306107
C	0.371028	1.330882	0.213993
C	-1.338188	-0.344043	0.213921
N	-0.995915	1.016241	-0.175552
H	0.643498	2.307824	-0.185091
H	0.390764	1.401657	1.306246
H	-2.320502	-0.596608	-0.185151
H	-1.409486	-0.362262	1.306210
H	-0.423910	-1.520220	-1.176351
H	-1.104854	1.127488	-1.176371
H	1.528899	0.393152	-1.176278



**Table S7.** Optimized Cartesian coordinates for  $\beta$ -HMX at the  $\omega$ B97XD/def2-TZVP level of theory

<b><math>\beta</math>-HMX</b> (charge=0, multiplicity=1)			
atom	x	y	z
O	1.942030	-2.343179	-0.339851
N	0.743228	-2.290774	-0.191089
O	-0.082640	-3.033562	-0.667948
N	0.271889	-1.251122	0.584561
C	1.235726	-0.339050	1.169419
C	-1.131551	-1.194920	0.867705
N	1.865851	0.537314	0.215330
H	0.684672	0.246352	1.904117
H	2.035252	-0.876346	1.672380
N	-1.865853	-0.537288	-0.215338
H	-1.527061	-2.197774	0.998447
H	-1.263081	-0.646492	1.801035
N	3.223186	0.429587	0.016687
C	1.131550	1.194937	-0.867719
N	-3.223187	-0.429564	-0.016694
C	-1.235729	0.339072	-1.169431
O	3.877692	-0.124974	0.865461
O	3.643797	0.950484	-0.995005
N	-0.271889	1.251145	-0.584578
H	1.527063	2.197788	-0.998471
H	1.263079	0.646500	-1.801044
O	-3.877701	0.124953	-0.865490
O	-3.643803	-0.950514	0.994969
H	-0.684677	-0.246332	-1.904128
H	-2.035256	0.876368	-1.672390
N	-0.743226	2.290800	0.191069
O	-1.942019	2.343141	0.339923
O	0.082651	3.033525	0.668011

**Table S8.** Optimized Cartesian coordinates for HNIW at the  $\omega$ B97XD/def2-TZVP level of theory

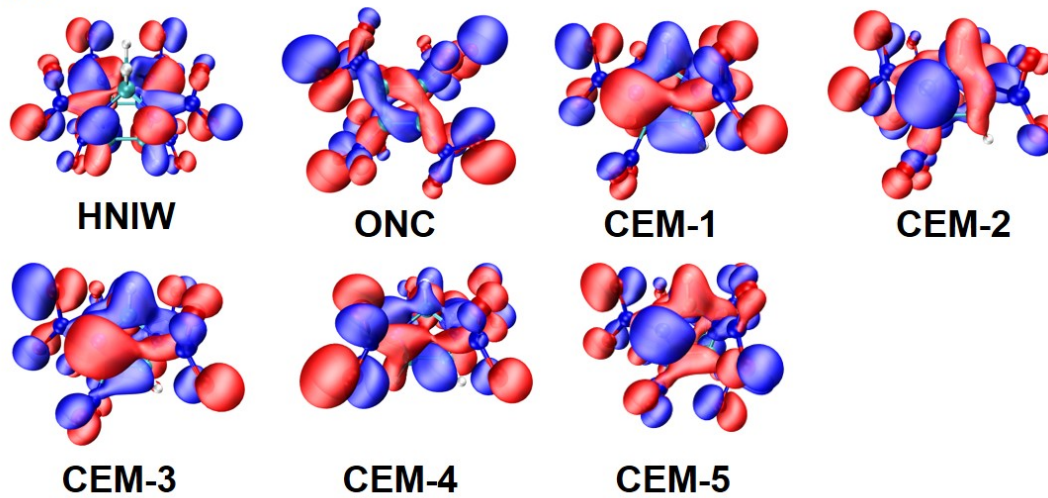
HNIW (charge=0, multiplicity=1)			
atom	x	y	z
C	0.000100	1.450883	0.483513
H	0.000295	2.491959	0.781746
N	-1.144837	1.126174	-0.352671
C	0.000138	0.490111	1.750081
N	1.144756	1.126064	-0.352850
N	-1.794618	2.204801	-1.006864
C	-0.790051	-0.038126	-1.158746
N	-1.077418	-0.473626	1.724600
H	0.000227	1.066887	2.666920
N	1.077617	-0.473673	1.724426
C	0.790060	-0.038165	-1.158857
N	1.795682	2.204232	-1.006225
O	-2.375796	1.932335	-2.022816
O	-1.742217	3.265545	-0.447939
H	-1.210164	0.050123	-2.154689
N	-1.245877	-1.252772	-0.555178
C	-0.788706	-1.542819	0.772135
N	-2.372777	-0.039694	1.915985
N	2.373014	-0.040024	1.915855
C	0.788768	-1.542855	0.772064
N	1.245962	-1.252783	-0.555212
H	1.210076	0.050045	-2.154859
O	2.377247	1.931562	-2.021918
O	1.743246	3.265043	-0.447405
N	-2.299014	-1.980734	-1.121804
H	-1.210958	-2.488097	1.092083
O	-3.241920	-0.808148	1.589377
O	-2.497650	1.050259	2.418994
O	3.242018	-0.808813	1.589639
O	2.498100	1.049894	2.418920
H	1.211070	-2.488155	1.091900
N	2.297831	-1.981807	-1.122611
O	-2.613802	-2.989623	-0.550204
O	-2.753057	-1.542613	-2.145508
O	2.751013	-1.544570	-2.147086
O	2.612237	-2.990875	-0.551103

**Table S9.** Optimized Cartesian coordinates for ONC at the  $\omega$ B97XD/def2-TZVP level of theory

<b>ONC (charge=0, multiplicity=1)</b>			
atom	x	y	z
C	0.768688	0.696398	0.858238
C	-0.768261	-0.683857	-0.868167
N	1.609800	1.413401	1.838595
N	-1.609835	-1.481770	-1.783445
O	1.248050	1.304802	2.980584
O	-1.248800	-2.619839	-1.929229
O	2.568892	1.992341	1.404267
O	-2.568654	-0.929934	-2.252268
C	0.777013	0.856414	-0.689324
C	-0.774523	0.861060	-0.685679
N	1.626937	1.834789	-1.398725
N	-1.622574	1.768778	-1.485488
O	2.590798	1.398269	-1.968014
O	-2.586229	2.229695	-0.935414
C	-0.782722	0.678595	0.859271
C	0.783158	-0.691147	-0.849337
N	-1.640372	1.470568	1.764736
N	1.640338	-1.402436	-1.819928
O	-1.289228	2.611196	1.914621
O	1.290382	-1.297211	-2.965902
O	-2.600618	0.911909	2.222405
O	2.598902	-1.973924	-1.374738
C	0.774821	-0.851155	0.698239
C	-0.776475	-0.866356	0.676774
N	1.623255	-1.823835	1.417231
N	-1.627596	-1.779547	1.467026
O	1.271803	-2.969012	1.308357
O	-1.277925	-1.925353	2.608638
O	2.577502	-1.380946	1.997649
O	-2.581847	-2.246946	0.906161
O	1.266426	2.977540	-1.294239
O	-1.260687	1.917495	-2.622891

2. The HOMO and LUMO of the designed compounds.

(a) HOMO



(b) LUMO

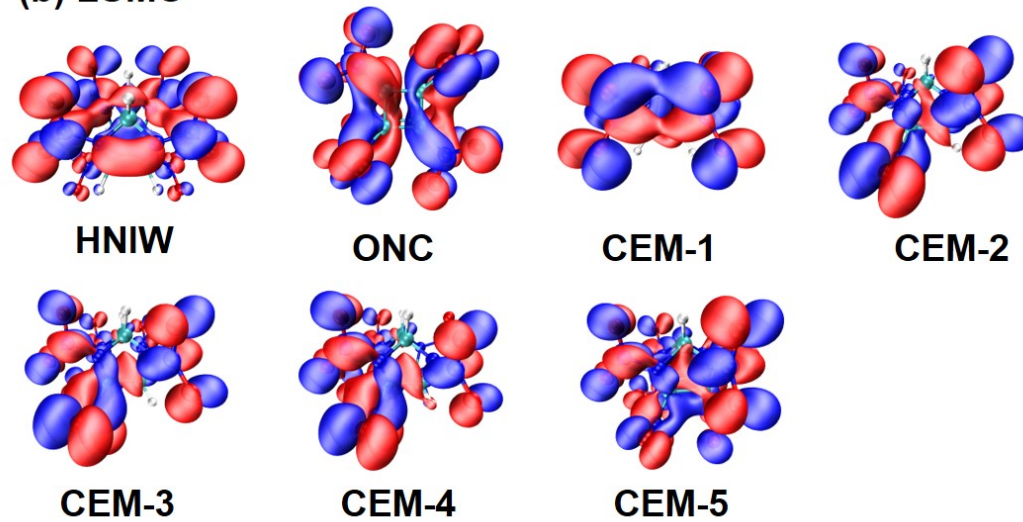
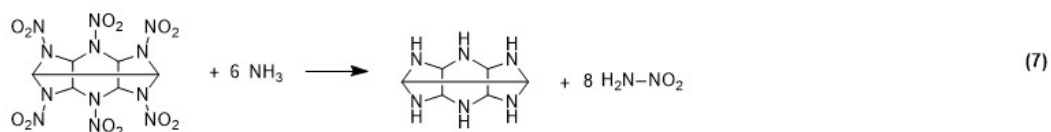
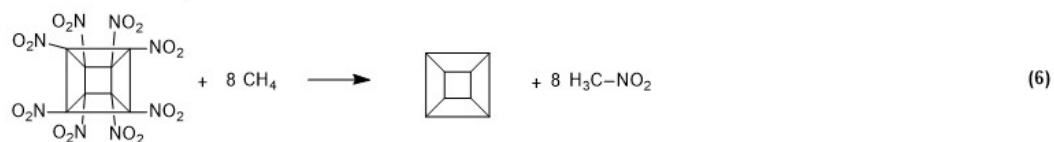
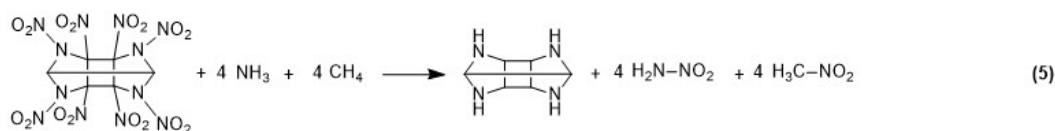
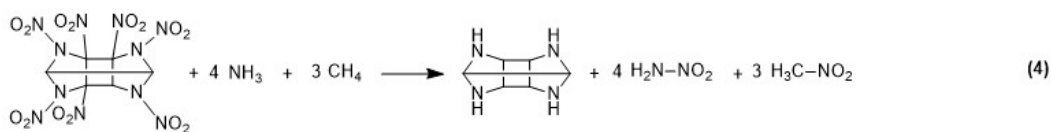
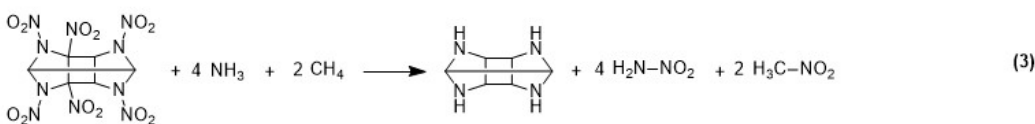
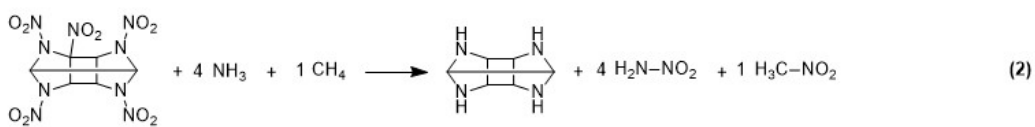
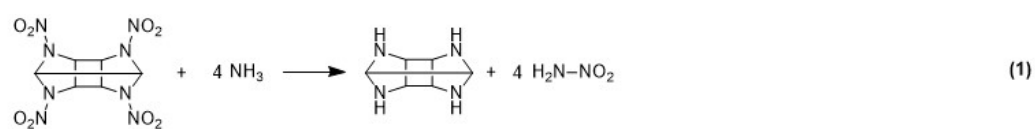


Figure S1. The HOMO (a) and LUMO (b) of HNIW, ONC, and the designed compounds.

### 3. Isodesmic reactions for the designed compounds.



**Scheme S1.** The isodesmic reactions for HNIW, ONC, and the designed compounds.

#### 4. ESP analysis supplementary details.

**Table S10.** ESP analysis supplementary details.

Compd.	$\sigma_{\text{tot}}^2$ <sup>[a]</sup>	$\sigma^{+2}$ <sup>[b]</sup>	$\nu$ <sup>[c]</sup>	$u\sigma_{\text{tot}}^2$
	(kcal/mol) <sup>2</sup>	(kcal/mol) <sup>2</sup>		(kcal/mol) <sup>2</sup>
<b>CEM-1</b>	219.09	189.68	0.12	25.46
<b>CEM-2</b>	200.91	183.69	0.08	15.75
<b>CEM-3</b>	239.57	222.61	0.07	15.76
<b>CEM-4</b>	201.14	187.50	0.06	12.71
<b>CEM-5</b>	211.49	199.14	0.05	11.62
HNIW	255.06	239.03	0.06	15.02
ONC	136.24	131.53	0.03	4.55

[a] Overall variance, [b] Positive variance, [c] Balance of charges.

## 5. Density calculation comparison.

**Table S11.** Density calculation comparison. Optimized Cartesian coordinates for those compounds at the  $\omega$ B97XD/def2-TZVP level of theory in our calculation.

	Compound Name	Density Exp <sup>4</sup>	Politer's results <sup>4</sup>	Our results
1	3,5-Diamino-2,4,6-trinitrophenol	1.89	1.853	1.849
2	3,5-Diamino-2,4,6-trinitrobenzoic acid	1.863	1.912	1.846
3	1,1,3,3-Tetranitrocyclobutane	1.831	0.805	1.83
4	1,3,5,7-Tetranitrocubane	1.814	1.809	1.838
5	1,3,5-Trinitro-1,3,5-triazacyclohexane	1.806	1.796	1.796
6	1,4-Dinitroimidazole	1.8	1.818	1.768
7	1,2,4-Trinitrobenzene	1.794	1.74	1.735
8	2,4,6-Trinitroaniline	1.773	1.768	1.779
9	4-Nitro-1H-1,2,3-triazole	1.689	1.773	1.673
10	2,4-Dinitrophenol	1.668	1.69	1.696
11	N-Nitropyrazole	1.585	1.596	1.576
12	1,3-Dinitro-1,3-diazacyclohexane	1.572	1.615	1.599
13	NC-N(NO <sub>2</sub> )-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> -N(NO <sub>2</sub> )-CN	1.527	1.557	1.524
14	H <sub>3</sub> C-N(NO <sub>2</sub> )-CH(OCH <sub>3</sub> )-N(NO <sub>2</sub> )-CH <sub>3</sub>	1.518	1.561	1.546
15	6-Methyl-2-nitrobenzotrile	1.441	1.456	1.413
16	H <sub>3</sub> C-C(CH <sub>3</sub> )NO <sub>2</sub> -C(CH <sub>3</sub> )NO <sub>2</sub> -CH <sub>3</sub>	1.43	1.392	1.414
17	Nitromethane	1.422	1.438	1.418
18	Dimethylnitramine	1.363	1.385	1.364
19	Octanitrocubane	1.978	1.982	2.06
20	[(O <sub>2</sub> N) <sub>3</sub> C-CH <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>2</sub> N-NO <sub>2</sub>	1.953	1.932	1.797
21	5-Nitro-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazole-3-one	1.927	1.81	1.762
22	Benzotrifuroxan	1.901	1.894	1.966
23	1,3,5,7-Tetranitro-1,3,5,7-tetraazacyclooctane	1.894	1.821	1.9
24	1,3,5-Trinitro-2,4,6-trihydroxybenzene	1.887	1.922	1.954
25	1,1-Diamino-2,2-dinitroethene	1.883	1.868	1.734
26	1,3,3-Trinitroazetidene	1.961	1.772	1.787
27	2,4,6-Trinitrobenzoic acid	1.786	1.862	1.82
28	Nitromalonamide	1.78	1.775	1.676
29	2,4,6-Trinitro-N-methyl-N-nitroaniline	1.731	1.775	1.784
30	2,2,3,3-Tetranitrobutane	1.716	1.752	1.796
31	3-Methoxy-2,4,6-trinitroaniline	1.71	1.737	1.74
32	O <sub>2</sub> N-NH-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -NH-NO <sub>2</sub>	1.709	1.653	1.598
33	HO-CH <sub>2</sub> -C(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -CH <sub>2</sub> -OH	1.652	1.697	1.678
34	3,4-Diaminofurazan	1.609	1.594	1.495
35	Trans-1,2-dinitrocyclopropane	1.603	1.631	1.633
36	H <sub>2</sub> N-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -NH-NO <sub>2</sub>	1.563	1.478	1.371





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