# VARIABLE-TEMPERATURE ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$-NMR AND AB INITIO STUDY OF 5-AMINO-IMIDAZOLE-4-CARBOXAMIDE (AICA): COMPETING PATHS FOR AMIDE-H SCRAMBLING 

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The undersigned, appointed by the dean of the Graduate School, have examined the thesis entitled

## VARIABLE-TEMPERATURE ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$-NMR AND AB INITIO STUDY OF 5-AMINO-IMIDAZOLE-4-CARBOXAMIDE (AICA): COMPETING PATHS FOR AMIDE-H SCRAMBLING

presented by Yang Liu,
a candidate for the degree of master of science,
and hereby certify that, in their opinion, it is worthy of acceptance.

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# VARIABLE-TEMPERATURE ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$-NMR AND AB INITIO STUDY OF 5-AMINO-IMIDAZOLE-4-CARBOXAMIDE (AICA): COMPETING PATHS FOR AMIDE-H SCRAMBLING 

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#### Abstract

5(4)-aminoimidazole-4(5)-carboxamide (AICA and TAICA) is an important precursor for the synthesis of purines in general and of the nucleobases adenine and guanine in particular. Biotic nucleobase synthesis has been studied in great detail and its chemistry and biochemistry are understood very well. In contrast, hypotheses regarding prebiotic nucleobase syntheses remain controversial. While such studies focused on aqueous solution chemistry for half a century, planetary nucleobase syntheses in frozen solids (ice) and other extreme environments have been explored in the past two decades. Spectacular advances in observational astronomy and the evolving knowledge about the chemistry and physics of the interstellar medium (ISM) suggest new options and the very possibility of prebiotic nucleobase synthesis in the cold ISM.

The discourse about prebiotic chemistry in interstellar space relies on observational astronomy. Hence, precise knowledge is required about the spectroscopic properties of presumed intermediates together with knowledge of their structural preferences and their isomerization dynamics. Here, we report on the structure and dynamics of AICA in a variety of solvents and the gas phase. The interplay between CC- and CN - rotations are discussed as well.


## 1 Introduction

5-Aminoimidazole-4-carboxamide (AICA) is an important precursor for the synthesis of purines. For example, hypoxanthine can be prepared by cyclization of AICA with a variety of condensation reagents, and adenine then becomes accessible through the pathway shown in Scheme 1. ${ }^{1} \quad$ Zubay and Mui ${ }^{2}$ recently reported the possible prebiotic synthesis of hypoxanthine via the HCN-tetramer DAMN (Scheme 1) and discussed implications for nucleobase synthesis in the interstellar medium from HCN and water.



Scheme 1. AICA and nucleobase synthesis.

Observational astronomy showed that many simple organic molecules exist in interstellar space and larger organic molecules are being discovered as the observational sensitivity increases. Meteorites provide a window to the chemistry of protostellar space and the analysis of chondrites, ${ }^{3}$ especially of the Orgueil ${ }^{4}$ and the Murchison ${ }^{5,6,7}$ meteorites, have revealed pyrimidines and purines, ${ }^{8,4,7}$ including the nucleobases. Compelling arguments have been made regarding the survivability of organic compounds during extraterrestrial delivery via carbonaceous chondrites. ${ }^{9}$ Moreover, recent measurements of carbon isotope ratios have established the non-terrestrial origin of uracil and xanthine in the Murchison meteorite. ${ }^{10}$

Chemical analyses of organic matter in meteorites have not provided any indication of AICA and this would be expected.

The detection of AICA in interstellar space would greatly advance the hypothesis of prebiotic hypoxanthine in interstellar space. Vibrational spectroscopy provides the most likely method for the detection of large organic molecules and the prediction of the vibrational signature of AICA requires knowledge of the molecular conformation.



AICA3


Scheme 2. Nomenclature for stereoisomers of AICA and intramolecular hydrogen bonding (HB).

Here, we report the results of a variable-temperature ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ measurements in acetone and acetonitrile to determine the conformation of AICA and to study its stereochemical dynamics. The experimental data are interpreted in light of the results of extensive ab initio studies of AICA and potential energy surface analyses were performed both for the free molecule in the gas-phase and with consideration of solvation. The potential energy surface analysis included the consideration of the five minima shown in Scheme 2 and all the relevant paths for their interconversions. We will show that the amino-N inversions of AICA1 to AICA1-dia and AICA2 to AICA2-dia are very fast. Hence, three distinct stereoisomers exist and we will show
that AICA1 is the most stable one. The stereoisomer AICA1 occurs in solutions of acetone and acetonitrile and this finding is in line with results of crystallographic studies. Stereoisomers AICA2 and AICA3 both play roles in the dynamics of AICA1.

## 2 Experimental and Computational Methods

### 2.1 NMR Measurements

Chemicals and Solvent:. AICA hydrochloride (98\%) was purchased from Acros Organics. $\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{CO}, \mathrm{CD}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ and $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ were obtained from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc.

Instrumentation. Variable temperature (VT) NMR experiments were carried out on a Bruker Avance DRX300 NMR spectrometer equipped with a 5 mm broadband probe and a BVT-3000 VT controller. The sample tube was placed into the probe using a ceramic spinner. Dry air (for measurements above RT) or liquid nitrogen was used as VT control gas. The sample was allowed to equilibrate at each desired temperature for 5-10 minutes before the start of shimming and acquisition. Generally, VT NMR measurements were performed by raising the temperature until coalescence is observed and then again by lowering the temperature in 10-degree steps until just above the freezing point of the solution. The temperature ranges were 45 to $-70{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for acetone-d6 and 50 to $-45{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for acetonitrile-d3. For each sample, either 16 or 32 scans were acquired to reach sufficient signal intensity. A $2-\mathrm{Hz}$ line broadening was applied to each FID before Fourier transformation. The residual proton signals of acetone ( 2.04 ppm rel. to TMS) and acetonitrile ( 1.93 ppm rel. to TMS) were used as chemical shift standard.

Sample Preparation. The following is the purification method employed in our lab to get free AICA base. Methanol $(30 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added into a flask. Then 500 mg AICA $\cdot \mathrm{HCl}$ and the molar equivalent potassium carbonate were dissolved in the methanol and stirred for half an hour. The solution was evaporated to a volume of
ca. 1 mL . The concentrated product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{OH} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(80: 20 \mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v})$ as an eluent. After evaporation of solvent, the product was dried on a Schlenk line.

Determination of the Activation Barrier. ${ }^{11}$ For uncoupled signals, the Gutowsky-Holm equation, $k_{\mathrm{c}}=\pi \Delta v\left(T_{\mathrm{c}}\right) / \operatorname{SQRT}(2)$, relates the exchange rate of nuclei A and B to the NMR line separation $\Delta \mathrm{v}$ at the coalescence temperature $T_{\mathrm{c}}$. The value $\Delta v(T)$ provides the difference between the Larmor frequencies of the two sites A and B in a given exchange system, and the coalescence temperature $T_{\mathrm{c}}$ is the lowest temperature at which the two signals of the AB system merge to appear as one single peak. In the slow-exchange temperature range, the measurements of $\Delta v(T)$ are linear in $T, \Delta v=\mathrm{a} T+\mathrm{b}$, and linear regression and extrapolation afford $T_{\mathrm{c}}$ and $\Delta v\left(T_{\mathrm{c}}\right)$. With the data of Table 1, we determined $\Delta v$ at $T_{\mathrm{c}}$ with high precision and derived $k_{\mathrm{c}}$. Substituting $k_{\mathrm{c}}$ and $T_{\mathrm{c}}$ into the Eyring equation, $k=$ $\kappa\left(\mathrm{k}_{\mathrm{b}} T / \mathrm{h}\right) \exp \left(-\Delta G^{\neq} / \mathrm{R} T\right)$, assuming the transmission coefficient $\kappa$ to be unity, one obtains $\Delta G^{\neq}\left(T_{\mathrm{c}}\right)=4.575 \cdot 10^{-3} T_{\mathrm{c}}\left[10.319+\log \left(T_{\mathrm{c}} / k_{\mathrm{c}}\right)\right]$ in units of $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$. This equation can be used to compute the free energy of activation at $T_{\mathrm{c}}$ of an equally populated uncoupled two-site exchanging system and the activation barriers determined in this way are listed in Table 2.

### 2.2 Potential Energy Surface Analysis.

$A b$ initio calculations were carried out on a 64-processor SGI Altix 3700 Bx2 system with the program Gaussian03. ${ }^{12}$ The potential energy surface analysis was performed with the concomitant inclusion of correlation and solvation effects.

Stationary structures were optimized using second-order Møller-Plesset perturbation theory ${ }^{13}$ (MP2) in conjunction with the fully polarized, diffuse function augmented, triply-split $6-311++\mathrm{G}^{* *}$ basis set. ${ }^{14}$ Vibrational analyses were performed at same level of theory to obtain thermodynamic data and to ensure that the located minima and transition state structures indeed are stationary and have the desired number of imaginary vibrational modes. In addition, the MP2/6-311++G** potential energy surface was explored extensively to determine isomerization paths.

The potential energy surface was scanned to determine the profiles for rotations of both amino groups and of the carboxamide group. The potential energy surface scans were performed in mass-weighted modified redundant coordinates with complete structural optimization at every point. ${ }^{15}$

The energetic effects of solvation frequently are computed at the solvent model level (SML) for the structure optimized with the gas-phase model level (GML), that is, in so-called single point calculations at the SML//GML level. Particularly in the case of molecules with soft modes, solvation can affect structures and we have performed structure optimizations and vibrational analyses at the solvent model level. We employ a self-consistent reaction field (SCRF) solvation model, that is, a polarizable continuum model (PCM) is employed to compute the impact of the implicit solvent environment on the characteristics of molecule within its solvent cavity. More specifically, we employ the PCM method by Tomasi et al. ${ }^{16}$ and the cavity is generated by a series of interlocking spheres using the "United Atom Model" (UAO). ${ }^{17}$ The solvents of interest here are acetone and acetonitrile and their dielectric constants ${ }^{18}$ are $\varepsilon\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{COCH}_{3}\right)=20.7$ and $\varepsilon\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}\right)=36.64$, respectively. The computation of the solvation energy requires the electron density of the solute and we employed the MP2(full)/6-311++G** level description of the solute, i.e., PCM(MP2(full)/6-311++G**).

Total energies $E$ and the thermodynamic parameters vibrational zero-point energy VZPE $=T E(0 \mathrm{~K})$, thermal energy $T E=T E(298.15 \mathrm{~K})$, and molecular entropy $S(298.15 \mathrm{~K})$ are reported in appendix (Tables A1 and A2) for all minima and transition state structures. Relative energies computed for the gas phase and for acetone and acetonitrile solution, respectively, are listed in Tables 6 and 7, respectively. They include $\Delta E, \Delta E_{0}=\Delta E+\Delta V Z P E, \Delta H_{298}=\Delta E+\Delta T E$, and $\Delta G_{298}=$ $\Delta H_{298}-0.298 \cdot \Delta S$. Complete sets of Cartesian coordinates of all optimized structures in the gas and solution are provided in the appendix of this thesis.

## 3 Results and Discussion

### 3.1 Variable-Temperature ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$-NMR Spectra

VT ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ spectra of AICA in acetone and acetonitrile are shown in Figure 1, and NMR chemical shift data are reported in Table 1. One single stereoisomer is observed and the spectra are assigned to stereoisomer AICA1 (Scheme 4).

Figure 1. Temperature-dependent H-NMR Spectra of AICA in (a) $\mathrm{D}_{6}$-Acetone and (b) $\mathrm{D}_{3}$-Acetonitrile.

## (a)



Figure 1. (Continued, place to the right of (a))
(b)


Table 1. Temperature-Dependent H-NMR Data. ${ }^{a, b}$

| $T(\mathrm{~K})$ | $\mathrm{a}, \delta(\mathrm{NH})$ | $\mathrm{b}, \delta(\mathrm{CH})$ | $\mathrm{c}, \delta\left(\mathrm{NH}_{2}\right)$ | $\mathrm{d}, \delta\left(\mathrm{CONH}_{2}\right)$ | $\mathrm{e}, \delta\left(\mathrm{CONH}_{2}\right)$ | $\Delta \nu(\mathrm{Hz})$ | $\kappa\left(\mathrm{s}^{-1}\right)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: | :---: |
| Acetone |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $318\left(T_{\mathrm{c}}\right)$ | 10.58 | 7.03 | 5.35 | 6.17 |  | 190.9 | 420.0 |
| 308 | 10.63 | 7.04 | 5.39 | 6.38 | 6.16 | 64.5 | 143.3 |
| 298 | 10.69 | 7.05 | 5.43 | 6.55 | 5.97 | 172.5 | 383.2 |
| 253 | 10.93 | 7.08 | 5.61 | 6.84 | 6.42 | 127.2 | 282.6 |
| 243 | 10.98 | 7.09 | 5.66 | 6.91 | 6.52 | 115.8 | 257.3 |
| 233 | 11.07 | 7.12 | 5.73 | 7.05 | 6.71 | 102.3 | 227.3 |
| 223 | 11.13 | 7.15 | 5.79 | 7.15 | 6.82 | 98.4 | 218.6 |
| 213 | 11.18 | 7.17 | 5.82 | 7.21 | 6.89 | 98.7 | 219.3 |
| 203 | 11.22 | 7.18 | 5.85 | 7.27 | 6.94 | 98.7 | 219.3 |
| Acetonitrile |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 323 | 9.59 | 6.98 | 5.05 | 5.84 |  |  |  |
| $313\left(T_{\mathrm{c}}\right)$ | 9.69 | 6.98 | 5.06 | 5.86 |  | 335.7 | 745.8 |
| 308 | 9.64 | 6.98 | 5.07 | 6.15 | 5.60 | 164.4 | 365.2 |
| 303 | 9.64 | 6.98 | 5.08 | 6.32 | 5.47 | 255.3 | 567.2 |
| 293 | 9.70 | 6.98 | 5.09 | 6.35 | 5.40 | 284.7 | 632.5 |
| 283 | 9.66 | 6.98 | 5.10 | 6.41 | 5.41 | 300.0 | 666.5 |
| 273 | 9.71 | 6.98 | 5.11 | 6.44 | 5.44 | 299.7 | 665.8 |
| 253 | 9.79 | 6.97 | 5.14 | 6.50 | 5.51 | 297.0 | 659.8 |
| 243 | 9.77 | 6.97 | 5.15 | 6.52 | 5.55 | 291.0 | 646.5 |
| 233 | 9.83 | 6.97 | 5.16 | 6.55 | 5.60 | 284.7 | 632.5 |
| 228 | 9.86 | 6.97 | 5.17 | 6.57 | 5.63 | 280.8 | 623.9 |

Table 2. Measured and Computed Barriers ${ }^{a}$

|  | Gas-Phase | Acetone | Acetonitrile |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\varepsilon=1$ | $\varepsilon=20.7$ | $\varepsilon=36.6$ |
| VT-NMR, amide |  | 14.83 | 14.24 |
| A1-Rotation | 16.61 | 15.63 | 14.74 |
| A2-Rotation | 7.40 | 10.15 | 10.39 |
| A1/A2 Isomerization | 11.55 | 8.68 | 7.72 |
| A1/A2 Isom. \& A2-Rot. | 17.26 | 15.43 | 14.51 |

[^0]Numbering system based on IUPAC for AICA structure is shown in Scheme 3, in order to help assign each characteristic NMR absorbing peak.


A1 and A1d


A2, A2d and A3

Scheme 3. Selected atom numbering of AICA.

The chemical shift of the sharp peak ca. 7 ppm is essentially independent of the solvent and it is therefore easily assigned to the H atom at $\mathrm{C}(2)$. The signal at ca. 10 ppm corresponds to the H atom at $\mathrm{N}(1)$, its chemical shift is solvent-dependent, and the peak shows the expected flattening as the rate of exchange with temperature increases. The signals of the amino groups show the most interesting dependencies both on temperature and solvent. The rotation of the amide-amino group is markedly hindered and at low temperatures the amide-H scrambling is slow enough to allow for the observation of well-separated peaks in the region 6-7.5 ppm. These peaks broaden with increasing temperature until coalescence is reached at $T_{\mathrm{c}} .=318 \mathrm{~K}$ in acetone and at $T_{\mathrm{c}}$. $=313 \mathrm{~K}$ in acetonitrile, respectively. The measured rotational barriers for AICA in acetone and acetonitrile are 14.83 and $14.24 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, respectively (Table 2 ). The rotation of the amino group at $\mathrm{C}(5)$ is essentially free and the amino-H atoms cause one signal at ca. 5-6 ppm. This amino-H signal is sharp at low temperatures and it is very important to note that this peak broadens quite significantly as the temperature increases and that this peak also shows a solvent-dependent shift with increasing temperature.

## ca. 6-7.5 ppm: AMIDE

T-dependent, solvent dependent
Two signals; shift, broaden, and coalesce at higher $T$

Acetone Vs. Acetonitrile: Smaller chem. shift diff. More T-dep. of chem. shifts
ca. 5-6 ppm: AMINE
T-dependent, solvent dependent
One sharp signal, broadens at higher $T$
Acetone vs. Acetonitrile: More solv. dep





Scheme 4. NMR assignment and intramolecular amino-carbonyl interaction.

The assignment of the spectra to stereoisomer AICA1 is corroborated by studies of intramolecular carbonyl-amino interactions in malonamides and acrylamides. VT-NMR and IR studies by Gellman et al. ${ }^{19}$ and the recent electron diffraction and theoretical studies by Belova et al. ${ }^{20}$ show malonamide to adopt the six-membered ring structure. In their computational study of conjugated amides, Berg and Bladh reported a Z-preference of $\Delta H_{298}=3.3 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\beta$-amino-acrylamide, $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{~N}-\mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{CH}-\mathrm{CONH}_{2},{ }^{21}$ and Gilli et al. employed the resonance-assisted hydrogen bond (RAHB) rule and the electrostatic-covalent H -bond (ECHBM) model to characterize the intramolecular HB in the pentamethyl derivative shown in Scheme 4. ${ }^{22}$ AICA is closely related to ortho amino-substituted $\mathrm{N}, \mathrm{N}$-dimethylbenzamide (Scheme 4), and Fong reported a rotational barrier of $14.19 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ about the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{N}$ bond. ${ }^{23}$

Table 3. Crystal Structures of AICA Derivatives and AICA•L Adducts.

| Molecule | Tautomer | Packing Features | Authors | Ref. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| AICA nucleoside | AICA1 | HB(ribose-OH to imidazole-N) | Adamiak | 24 |
| AICA nucleotide | Protonated | zwitterions <br> N-prot. imidazole | Adamiak | 24 |
| N1-diphenylmethyl <br> AICA | AICA1 | amide dimer, amide-amine to <br> imidazole-N in both ways | Banerjee | 24 |
| N1-2-(diethylamino) <br> ethyl AICA | AICA1 | stacked amide dimers | Dey | 24 |
| N1-(2-hydroxyethyl) <br> AICA | AICA1 | HB(amide-NH2 to alc-O) | Banerjee | 27 |
| N1-acetamide AICA | AICA1 | stacked columns | Banerjee | 27 |
| AICA $\cdot \mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{7} \mathrm{OH}$ | AICA1 | See text. | Kalman | 29 |
| AICA $\cdot \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$ | Protonated | ion pair <br> N-prot. AICA and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}{ }^{-}$ | Kalman | 29 |
| AICA $\cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ | Tautomer | See text. | Kalman | 29 |

We reviewed the crystallographic record ${ }^{24-29}$ (Table 3) and found that all N1-derivatives of AICA as well as the co-crystal formed between the parent AICA and propanol contain the stereoisomer AICA1. However, the crystal structure of AICA $\cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ contains the alternative imidazole tautomer and a closer inspection is warranted (Figure 2). In the crystal structure of AICA $\cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$, one amide-H engages in hydrogen bonding (HB) to water and every water molecule act as donor in one H -bond with an imidazole N -acceptor and another H -bond with an amino-N of an AICA molecule in layer above or below (not shown). The carbonyl acceptor engages in strong bifurcated H -bonding with the second amide- H and the H at N 1 . All H -donors are engaged and the weakest H -bonding acceptor is left unused, the amide-N. In the propanol co-crystal, one amide-H again engages in H -bonding to water. However, propanol has only one chance to engage in H-bonding as a donor
and does so with the very best H -bond acceptor available, the carbonyl. The amide- N and the imidazole- N of one AICA molecule both engage in H -bonding with the H atoms of the amino group of a neighboring AICA molecule. In the propanol architecture no use is made of the amino-group as acceptor and of second amide-donor.


Figure 2. Intermolecular interactions in the crystal structures of AICA $\cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (left) and AICA $\cdot \mathrm{iPrOH}$. Side-views are provided of the aggregates shown.

The discussion of the crystal packings of the adducts AICA•L shows that a great many intermolecular interactions are in play and this is true for all of the crystal structures of AICA derivatives as well (Table 3). Hence, the crystallographic record does not allow for direct deductions as to the structure of AICA in the liquid or gas phases. Instead, the solid state information is most useful as a resource about structural options that might inform the analysis of solution effects (Scheme 5).





N 三 C — Me






Scheme 5. Intermolecular interactions between AICA and solvents acetone and acetonitrile.

Both solvents can engage HB-donors of AICA1 (top, left and center) and AICA2 (bottom, left and center) more or less in AICA's molecular plane. Both solvents can engage polar bonds of AICA with parallel-offset (top right) and T-shape (bottom right) interactions. In addition, acetone can engage strongly polar bond of AICA by parallel collinear alignment; i.e., green acetone aligned with amide-carbonyl bond.

Acetone ${ }^{30}$ and acetonitrile ${ }^{31}$ form highly structured liquids because of their large dipole moments (acetone: 2.88 D , acetonitrile: 3.92 D ). Acetone and acetonitrile form parallel-offset and T-shaped dimers, respectively, and both solvents can stabilize polar bonds of AICA by association above and below AICA's molecular plane and both parallel or perpendicular to it. In contrast to acetonitrile, acetone allows for attraction via collinear parallel alignment and, hence, acetone can interact with the amide's carbonyl group more or less in the molecular plane (Scheme 5, green solvent molecules). Acetone and acetonitrile both are HB-acceptor solvents without
significant HB-donor ability. One HB-donor of AICA1 is engaged in an intramolecular amino-carbonyl H-bond ( $\mathrm{NH} \cdots \mathrm{OC}$ ) and this interaction is steady over time even though the amino group constantly inverts and rotates even at very low temperatures. Thus, four HB-donors are available for interactions of AICA1 with solvent molecules and these interactions are highly flexible in number, geometry, and strength. The scrambling of the amide-H atoms in AICA1 will require some reorganization of solvent molecules engaged in interactions with the amide HB-donors. On the other hand, this scrambling is not expected to cause any significant electronic relaxation and/or changes in solvation in the remainder of the molecule. And yet, the spectra in Figure 1 show pronounced broadening of the amino group signal and a shift to lower chemical shifts with increasing temperature in both solvents, and these T-dependent effects are more pronounced in acetone. These features are inconsistent with and therefore deny the interpretation of the VT-NMR data as the result of amide- H scrambling by simple amide $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ rotation in one stereoisomer.

### 3.2 Potential Energy Surface Analysis

This theoretical method is to explore the possibility of amide protons exchanging through isomerism and investigate dynamic NMR events of AICA compounds in different solvents, e.g., acetone or acetonitrile, from a theoretical point of view. Potential energy surface analysis has proven to be of assistance to interpret these experimental findings and gain deeper structural and dynamic insights. In our current study, all possible conformers of AICA (Scheme 2) have been taken into account to be responsible for NMR dynamics. Since the publication of this work, theoretical studies for AICA and its analogues are scarce in the literature, and several are found below. Shim and coworkers ${ }^{32}$ proposed model system of AICA and formamide to confirm proton-shuttling mechanism of AICAr Tfase assisted by 4-carboximide group. Qiao et al. ${ }^{33}$ also employed AICA and M-AICA (N-Methyl AICA) to model molecule AICAR, thereby evaluating catalytic mechanism of AICAR

Transformylase. In these papers, ribose moiety in AICAR was replaced by a hydrogen atom or a methyl group so as to simplify the molecules of interest in each case, thus saving time and cost without significant loss of good accuracy. There are relatively few conformational analyses of AICA and its derivatives discussed in quantum chemical calculation. However, this information gives us little help to explain our case. As a result, a more detailed electronic structural examination for AICA should be systematically undertaken in our study.

Structural Analysis of Minima. Molecular model about all possible AICA conformers and isomers are demonstrated in Figure 3, in ball-stick form.


A1


A1'


A1d


A1d'


A2


A2'


A2d


A2d'


A3


A3'

Figure 3. MP2(full)/6-311++G** optimized stationary structures for AICA.

As can be seen, the major geometrical difference between A1 type and two other types A2, A3, lies in the orientation of carbonyl $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ in the carboxamide $\mathrm{CONH}_{2}$ group. The carbonyl oxygen in $\mathbf{A 1}$ is pointed toward the 5-amino $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ group and cis to $\mathrm{C} 4=\mathrm{C} 5$ of imidazole ring with respect to single bond of $\mathrm{C} 4-\mathrm{CO}$; while in A 2 and A3, it is actually trans to the ring $\mathrm{C} 4=\mathrm{C} 5$ and carboxamide $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ is oriented to the 5-amino group. Although A2 and A3 are very similar since the 4-carboxamide group is situated in almost same way, each of protons in 5-amino group of A3 does not lie in the ring plane, nearly symmetrized to each other in terms of imidazole ring plane. That's also the reason why AICA3 diastereomers were not found on
exploration of potential energy surface.
The selected geometrical parameters, including the bond lengths, angles and dihedral angels, have been reported in Table 4 and Table 5.

Table 4. Selected Geometrical Parameters of AICA Isomers at MP2 Level. ${ }^{a}$

| Geometry Parameters | A1 | A1d | A2 | A2d | A3 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| Bond Length (A) |  |  |  |  |  |
| C4C5 | 1.386 | 1.386 | 1.392 | 1.392 | 1.391 |
| C4C6 | 1.467 | 1.467 | 1.474 | 1.479 | 1.492 |
| C5N9 | 1.389 | 1.389 | 1.400 | 1.402 | 1.412 |
| C6O7 | 1.234 | 1.234 | 1.217 | 1.217 | 1.222 |
| C6N8 | 1.364 | 1.363 | 1.403 | 1.400 | 1.376 |
| N9H12 | 1.018 | 1.018 | 1.015 | 1.014 | 1.015 |
| Bond Angle (deg.) |  |  |  |  |  |
| C4C5N9 | 131.63 | 131.49 | 133.51 | 134.22 | 130.48 |
| C5C4C6 | 124.84 | 124.85 | 126.71 | 127.65 | 128.83 |
| C4C6O7 | 121.64 | 121.65 | 124.56 | 123.89 | 122.30 |
| C4C6N8 | 114.62 | 114.66 | 112.80 | 113.61 | 114.32 |
| C6N8H10 | 117.06 | 117.26 | 114.72 | 115.07 | 118.04 |
| C6N8H11 | 117.76 | 117.99 | 112.40 | 112.49 | 115.14 |
| C5N9H12 | 108.64 | 108.58 | 110.08 | 110.35 | 112.81 |
| C5N9H13 | 113.56 | 113.54 | 112.42 | 113.12 | 112.76 |
| Dihedral (deg.) |  |  |  |  |  |
| C5C4C6O7 | -6.18 | 0.59 | 145.06 | 146.16 | 169.46 |
| C5C4C6N8 | 171.61 | 178.64 | -31.13 | -30.14 | -13.03 |
| C4C6N8H10 | 166.96 | 167.86 | -42.20 | -39.58 | 19.70 |
| C4C6N8H11 | 14.60 | 14.00 | -173.27 | -171.71 | 167.29 |
| C4C5N9H12 | -5.47 | 8.26 | -9.70 | -5.96 | 114.96 |
| C4C5N9H13 | -128.95 | 131.58 | -131.73 | 116.86 | -120.15 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 5. Bond Lengths for Possible Hydrogen Bonds in AICA Molecules.

| H-Bond $(\AA)$ | A1 | A1d | A2 | A2d | A3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| O7"H12 | 2.198 | 2.196 | - | - | - |
| N3 $\cdots \mathrm{H} 11$ | 2.399 | 2.402 | - | - | - |
| N8 $\cdots \mathrm{H} 12$ | - | - | 2.350 | 2.495 | - |
| N9 $\cdots \mathrm{H} 10$ | - | - | - | - | 2.145 |

We can see dihedral angle data for amide Hs in Table 4, for all of AICA conformations, no one is close to $0^{\circ}$ or $180^{\circ}$, suggesting that they are not planar, mostly owing to avoidance of steric effect and intramolecular repulsion.

Two major possible intramolecular H-bonds are shown in Scheme 2 and Table 5. One is $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H}^{\cdots} \mathrm{O}=\mathrm{C}$, the other is $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H}^{\cdots} \mathrm{N}$. The existence of these non covalent bondings in the molecule results in the structural distinction and geometrical preference between AICA1 and AICA2 or AICA3. In A1 and A1d, the distance of O7 $\cdots \mathrm{H} 12$ are 2.198 and $2.196 \AA$. They are both typical indicatives of formation of strong H -bond. In addition, the bond lengths of $\mathrm{N} 3 \cdots \mathrm{H} 11$ in AICA1 analogs are 2.399 and 2.402 , which are much longer and correspond to a relatively weaker interaction. While in A2, A2d and A3, there is only one H-bonding in their molecules. It is clear that they belong to same kind of H-bonds, but the H-bond donor nitrogen atom came from different groups. And the distance ordering is A3 $<$ A2 $<$ A2d. As a consequence, hydrogen bond strength of A3 is biggest one among them, and second to A2, the last is A2d.

Isomer Preferences. Relative energies and activation barriers for isomerizations of conformers of AICA are reported in Table 6 in gas phase and Table 7 considering bulk solvents.

Table 6. Relative Energies and Activation Barriers for AICA in Gas-Phase ${ }^{a}$

| Parameter | $\Delta E$ | $\Delta H_{0}$ | $\Delta H_{298}$ | $\Delta G_{298}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $E_{\text {rel }}(\mathbf{A 1 d}$ vs. A1) | 0.11 | 0.07 | 0.09 | 0.12 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A 1 , R T S 1}(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}$ ') $)$ | 18.82 | 17.97 | 17.71 | 18.11 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A 1 d}$ ',RTS1(A1,A1d') $)$ | 18.71 | 17.90 | 17.62 | 17.99 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A 1 , R T S 2}(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}$ ') $)$ | 17.30 | 16.49 | 16.24 | 16.61 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A 1 d}$ ',RTS2(A1,A1d') $)$ | 17.19 | 16.41 | 16.15 | 16.49 |
| $E_{a c t}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , I T S}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}{ }^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 0.28 | -0.41 | -0.55 | -0.37 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A 1 d}{ }^{\prime}\right.$,ITS(A1,A1d') $)$ | 0.18 | -0.48 | -0.64 | -0.49 |
| $E_{a c t}(\mathbf{A 1 , I T S}(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}))$ | 3.00 | 1.61 | 1.73 | 1.35 |
| $E_{a c t}(\mathbf{A 1 d , I T S}(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}))$ | 2.89 | 1.53 | 1.63 | 1.23 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A 1 , R T S 1}(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}))$ | 2.21 | 1.90 | 1.63 | 1.91 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A 1 d , R T S 1}(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}))$ | 2.10 | 1.83 | 1.54 | 1.79 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A 1 , R T S 2}(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}))$ | 9.48 | 8.67 | 8.49 | 8.53 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A 1 d , R T S 2}(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}))$ | 9.37 | 8.59 | 8.39 | 8.41 |
| $E_{\text {rel }}(\mathbf{A} 2 d$ vs. A2) | 0.70 | 0.61 | 0.68 | 0.51 |
| $E_{\text {rel }}(\mathbf{A} 2$ vs. A1) | 10.01 | 10.00 | 9.98 | 9.86 |
| $E_{\text {rel }}(\mathbf{A} 2 \mathrm{~d} v \mathrm{vs}$. A1) | 10.71 | 10.61 | 10.65 | 10.37 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A} 2, R T S(A 2, A 2 d '))$ | 7.57 | 6.90 | 6.55 | 7.40 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A} 2 \mathbf{d}^{\prime}, \mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A} 2, \mathbf{A} 2 \mathbf{d}^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 6.86 | 6.29 | 5.87 | 6.90 |
| $E_{a c t}(\mathbf{A} 2, I T S(A 2, A 2 d))$ | 3.38 | 2.29 | 2.36 | 1.72 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A 2 d , I T S}(\mathbf{A} 2, \mathbf{A 2 d})$ ) | 2.68 | 1.68 | 1.68 | 1.21 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A} 2, R T S(A 2, A 2 d))$ | 1.51 | 1.22 | 0.95 | 1.23 |
| $E_{a c t}(\mathbf{A 2 d , R T S}(\mathbf{A 2 , A 2 d}))$ | 0.81 | 0.62 | 0.27 | 0.72 |
| $E_{\text {rel }}(\mathbf{A} 3$ vs. A1) | 10.63 | 10.42 | 10.45 | 10.07 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A} 3, \mathbf{I T S}\left(\mathbf{A} 3, \mathbf{A} \mathbf{3}^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 0.39 | -0.47 | -0.57 | -0.76 |
| $E_{a c t}\left(\mathbf{A} 3, \mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A} 3, \mathbf{A 3}^{\prime}\right)\right)$ | 18.02 | 16.93 | 16.87 | 16.67 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , C C}-\mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , A} \mathbf{A}^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 11.86 | 11.58 | 11.30 | 11.55 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A} 2^{\prime}, \mathbf{C C}-\mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , A 2}{ }^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 1.85 | 1.67 | 1.32 | 1.69 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , C C}-\mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A 1}, \mathbf{A} \mathbf{3}^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 14.96 | 14.12 | 13.99 | 14.25 |
| $E_{a c t}\left(\mathbf{A} \mathbf{3}^{\prime}, \mathbf{C C}-\mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A 1}, \mathbf{A 3}^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 4.33 | 3.70 | 3.54 | 4.17 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A} 2 \mathrm{~d}, \mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A 2 d , A 3}{ }^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 4.51 | 3.80 | 3.62 | 3.54 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A} 3^{\prime}, \mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A} 2 \mathrm{~d}, \mathbf{A} 3^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 4.59 | 3.99 | 3.82 | 3.84 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A} 2, \mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A} 2, \mathbf{A}^{\prime} \mathbf{\prime}^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 1.31 | 0.80 | 0.50 | 1.24 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A} 3$ ',RTS(A2,A3')) | 0.68 | 0.38 | 0.02 | 1.02 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , R T S}\left(\mathbf{A} 2, \mathbf{A} 2 \mathbf{d}^{\prime}\right)\right)$ | 17.57 | 16.90 | 16.53 | 17.26 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A 1 d}{ }^{\prime}, \mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A} 2, \mathbf{A} 2 d^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 17.47 | 16.83 | 16.44 | 17.14 |

${ }^{a}$ All data computed at MP2(full)/6-311++G**.

Table 7. Relative Energies and Activation Barriers for AICA Considering Bulk Solvation. ${ }^{a}$

| Parameter | $\Delta E_{\text {SP }}$ | $\Delta E$ | $\Delta H_{0}$ | $\Delta H_{298}$ | $\Delta G_{298}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| In Acetone |  |  |  |  |  |
| $E_{\text {rel }}(\mathbf{A 1} \text { vs. A1d })$ | -0.02 | -0.01 | 0.17 | 0.04 | 0.87 |
| $E_{a c t}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , R T S 1}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}{ }^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 16.22 | 16.28 | 15.79 | 15.32 | 16.79 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A 1 d} \mathbf{d}^{\prime}, \mathbf{R T S 1}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}{ }^{\text {d }}\right.\right.$ ) $)$ | 16.24 | 16.28 | 15.62 | 15.28 | 15.92 |
| $E_{a c t}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , R T S 2}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}{ }^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 15.21 | 15.19 | 14.71 | 14.28 | 15.63 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A 1 d} \mathbf{d}^{\prime}, \mathbf{R T S 2}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}{ }^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 15.23 | 15.19 | 14.54 | 14.24 | 14.76 |
| $E_{\text {rel }}(\mathbf{A 2 d} v \mathrm{~s}$. A2) | 0.80 | 1.05 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.15 |
| $E_{\text {rel }}(\mathbf{A 1}$ vs. A2) | 5.18 | 4.56 | 4.80 | 4.68 | 5.28 |
| $E_{\text {rel }}(\mathbf{A 1}$ vs. A2d) | 5.98 | 5.61 | 5.88 | 5.76 | 6.44 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , C C - R T S}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , A} \mathbf{A}^{\prime}\right)\right)$ | 8.87 | 8.61 | 8.23 | 7.94 | 8.68 |
| $E_{a c t}\left(\mathbf{A} 2^{\prime}, \mathbf{C C}-\mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , A 2}{ }^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 3.69 | 4.05 | 3.43 | 3.26 | 3.40 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A} 2, \mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A} 2, \mathbf{A} 2 \mathbf{d}^{\prime}\right)\right)$ | 6.35 | 10.00 | 9.51 | 9.06 | 10.15 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A} 2 \mathbf{d}^{\prime}, \mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A 2 , A 2 d}{ }^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 8.55 | 8.95 | 8.44 | 7.99 | 9.00 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , R T S}\left(\mathbf{A} 2, \mathbf{A} 2 \mathbf{d}^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 14.53 | 14.56 | 14.32 | 13.74 | 15.43 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A 1 d}{ }^{\prime}, \mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A} 2, \mathbf{A} 2 \mathbf{d}^{\prime}\right)\right)$ | 14.55 | 14.57 | 14.15 | 13.70 | 14.57 |
| In Acetonitrile |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\operatorname{Erel}(\mathbf{A 1}$ vs. A1d) | -0.04 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.07 |
| $E_{a c t}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , R T S 1}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}{ }^{\text {d }}\right.\right.$ ) $)$ | 16.05 | 16.14 | 15.54 | 15.17 | 15.86 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A 1 d}$,RTS1(A1,A1d')) | 16.09 | 16.14 | 15.49 | 15.15 | 15.79 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A 1 , R T S 2}(\mathbf{A 1 , A 1 d}$ ') $)$ | 15.09 | 15.09 | 14.49 | 14.17 | 14.74 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A 1 d}$,RTS2(A1,A1d') $)$ | 15.12 | 15.10 | 14.45 | 14.14 | 14.67 |
| $E_{\text {rel }}(\mathbf{A} 2 d$ vs. A2) | 0.79 | 1.04 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.16 |
| $E_{\text {rel }}(\mathbf{A 1} v s . \mathbf{A 2 )}$ | 4.90 | 4.25 | 4.35 | 4.35 | 4.12 |
| $E_{\text {rel }}(\mathbf{A 1}$ vs. A2d) | 5.73 | 5.29 | 5.37 | 5.39 | 5.21 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , C C - R T S}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , A} \mathbf{A}^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 8.69 | 8.40 | 7.87 | 7.69 | 7.72 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A} 2, \mathbf{C C}-\mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , A 2} \mathbf{A}^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 3.78 | 4.14 | 3.51 | 3.34 | 3.60 |
| $E_{\text {act }}(\mathbf{A} 2, R T S(A 2, A 2 d '))$ | 9.46 | 10.17 | 9.70 | 9.25 | 10.39 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A} 2 \mathbf{d}^{\prime}, \mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A} 2, \mathbf{A} 2 \mathbf{d}^{\prime}\right)\right)$ | 8.67 | 9.14 | 8.64 | 8.18 | 9.23 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A 1 , R T S}\left(\mathbf{A} 2, \mathbf{A} 2 \mathbf{d}^{\prime}\right)\right.$ ) | 14.36 | 14.43 | 14.06 | 13.60 | 14.51 |
| $E_{\text {act }}\left(\mathbf{A 1 d}{ }^{\prime}, \mathbf{R T S}\left(\mathbf{A 2 , A 2 d}{ }^{\text {d }}\right.\right.$ ) $)$ | 14.40 | 14.43 | 14.01 | 13.57 | 14.44 |

[^1]PCM(MP2(full)/6-311++G**)//PCM(MP2(full)/6-311++G**).
In above tables, we found that there are two model systems: AICA1 and AICA1-dia, are most stable and almost similar in energy. Particularly, A1 is the most stable AICA conformation in gas phase, followed by A1d, then A2 and A3, and A2d is the least stable one, which is c.a. $10.71 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ higher than A1. Moreover, isomer A2d is preferred over A2 by $\Delta E=0.70 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$. In aqueous phase, same law applies to most cases noted before. The only exception is that A1d is more negative in energy compared with A1, but with little difference in value. They could coexist at same proportion.

Rotational Isomerization of AICA1 Isomers. As Figure 4 illustrates, when amide hydrogens on carboxamide group in AICA1 rotate about CO-N bond, AICA1 will finally turn into AICA-dia'. The activation barriers to fall into A1d' from A1 via RTS1(A1,A1d') and RTS2(A1,A1d') are $18.11 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and $16.61 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, respectively. They are relatively high in energy, but when considering solvation, barriers for these two rotational pathways significantly decrease a lot. 16.79 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and $15.63 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ are calculated in acetone, and $15.86 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and 14.74 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ in acetonitrile. It demonstrates that these polar solvents interacting with AICA solutes are favorable to such diastereoisomerization. On the other hand, if amino group rotates around imidazole-ring C-N bond, AICA1 goes to AICA1-dia. Compared to amide rotation, amino rotation is relatively easily accessible and activation barriers through RTS1(A1,A1d) and RTS2(A1,A1d) are $2.21 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and $9.48 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ in gas phase, respectively. We also found barriers in acetonitrile are dropping more than those in acetone. It also shows that enantiomerization between A1 and A1' can not occur via simple conversion unless two amino rotational pathways proceed simultaneously or stepwise.

Figure 4. Enantiomerization and Diastereoisomerization of AICA1 and AICA1-dia by amino-rotation.


Figure 4. (Continued. Attach to the right.)


Figure 5. Enantiomerization and Diastereoisomerization of AICA1 and AICA1-dia, respectively, by N -Inversion.


Figure 6. 3D PES (left and right side view).



Inversional Isomerization of AICA1 Isomers. Starting from AICA1 structures, we also searched four amino-inversional transition states in A1 and A1d systems. Their structures are shown in Figure 5, and graphic inversional pathways are illustrated in Figure 6 (3D PES). Seen from both figures, the barriers corresponding to amino inversion are relatively high on curves, c.a. $1.35 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{A 1}$ to isomerize to A1d. Howver, it seems that amide inversion TSs on 3D surface are pretty much similar to minima in energy. Furthermore, the computed Gibbs free energies for these processes are incredibly negative. It suggests three possibilities: first, the inversion course via ITS(A1,A1d') is able to take place spontaneously; second, ITS(A1,A1d') is not transition state at all; third, the computational methods we used can not apply to inversion case. In separate paper, the results obtained by corrected quantum method and anharmonic vibrational analysis will shed some light on this problem.

Isomerization of AICA2 Isomers. For AICA2 to AICA2-dia, shown in Figure 7, they can undergo through dissimilar rotational and inversional transition states. The formation of A2d via nearly planar transition state ITS(A2,A2d) reveals readily attained pathway to such diastereoisomerization ( $\Delta G_{\text {act }}<1.72 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ). In addition, the conversion between A2 and A2d by aid of transition RTS(A2,A2d) is much easier to occur due to even smaller activation barrier ( $\left.\Delta G_{\text {act }}<1.23 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}\right)$. To large extent, they are both able to happen and are competing in the process. Interestingly, unlike AICA conformers, the analogous amide-inversion TS has not been found yet on PES. But multiple rotational transition state was accidentally being located during the operation of looking for ITS. It provides likelihood that interconversion between A2 and A2d'. Another important pathway via RTS(A2,A2d') that might be responsible for amide protons scrambling in NMR dynamics is listed in Figure 7 as well. The activation barrier in junction with this passage is relatively high ( $\Delta G_{\text {act }}>9.23$ $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ), thus providing an alternative to reasonably interpret our NMR data.

Figure 7. Enantiomerization and Diastereoisomerization of AICA2 and AICA2-dia by amino-rotation snd -inversion.


Figure 7. (Continued. Attach to the right.)


Figure 8. Enantiomerization of AICA3 by N -inversion or amio-rotation.


Enantiomerizations of AICA3. As illustrated in Figure 8, with AICA3 amino group remaining almost the same way, amide group may invert or rotate to yield three transition structures ITS(A3, A3'), RTS(A3, A3') and its mirror state RTS'(A3, A3'). The barrier is extremely high ( $\Delta G_{\text {act }}=16.67 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ) for rotation, and very low $\left(\Delta G_{\text {act }}=-0.76 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}\right)$ for inversion. They are both similar to AICA1 case.

Diastereoisomerization of AICA2 to AICA3. By rotating imidazole $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ bond, AICA2 conformers can isomerize to AICA3 or AICA3'. These pathways are illustrated in the central column of Figure 9. The alternative rotational isomerization of A2 and A3 was constructed as a series of constrained optimization keeping CCNH torsion angle $(\alpha)$ at fixed values. The resulting potential energy curves were plotted in Figure 10.

In the case of A2, we see that as the dihedral angle $\alpha$ approached c.a. $\pm 70^{\circ}$, two energy maxima have been located and confirmed as two distinctive rotational TSs, RTS(A2,A2d) and RTS(A2,A3'). The barriers with respect to these states are 1~1.5 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$. This value is not that big, and isomers A2 and A3 can interchange much easily. Continuing to increase or decrease angle $\alpha$ in opposite direction, equilibrium structures A2d near $120^{\circ}$ and A3 corresponding to c.a. $-120^{\circ}$ are observed. Along right rotational path from A2d, relatively higher barrier ( $3.54 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ) stemming from transition state RTS(A2d,A3') around $180^{\circ}$, has to be overcome to yield A3’. Same rule and passage could be employed to describe another pure rotational pathway: A3 $\rightarrow$ A2' $\rightarrow$ A2d'. In fact, the first route and second are just two mirror processes, having enatio counterparts with identical energy. Low barrier of invisional paths for A3 and A3' make them interconnected to each other.

Figure 9. Diastereoisomerization of A1, A2 and A3 by carboxamide rotation.

|  |  |  <br> AICA2-dia | $k===>$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  <br> RTS(A2d,A3') |  |
| AICA1 |  <br> CC-RTS(A1,A3') |  <br> AICA3' | $<===>$ |
|  |  |  |  |
| AICA1’ |  CC-RTS(A1’,A2) |  <br> AICA2 | <===> |

Figure 9. (attach to right)


Figure 10. Computed Discretized Rotational Energy Profiles of AICA. The profiles for the amino group rotations are shown as a function of the $\angle(\mathrm{C} 4=\mathrm{C} 5-\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H})$ dihedral angle $\alpha$.


Figure 11. Computed Discretized Rotational Energy Profiles of AICA. The profiles are shown as a function of the $\angle(\mathrm{C} 5=\mathrm{C} 4-\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O})$ dihedral angle $\omega$. An overview is provided in part (a), and parts (b) and (c) show two pertinent regions with doubled vertical resolution.
(a)

(b) and (c)



Diastereoisomerization of AICA1 to AICA2 or AICA3. In the past, a large amount of aromatic amides have been explored, especially for isomerization accounted for all of Ar-CO rotations. This is due to importantance of them regarded as atropisomeric molecules. These restricted rotational compounds are powerful controllers of stereoselectivity and used as chiral auxiliaries in organic synthesis. ${ }^{34}$ They can exist as enantiomers at room temperature if such rotation is very slow, i.e., Ar-CO rotational barrier is high enough ( $>21 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ) ${ }^{35}$.

Although AICA is also aromatic amides whose imidazole ring is a planar $6 \pi$-aromatic heterocycle, it has a low barrier $\Delta G_{\text {act. }}<15 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ due to unsubstitution of amide and can not be atropsomeric at ambient temperature. However, if temperature is decreasing to some degree, the rate of rotation about $\mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{CO}$ will be slow, and then rotamers interconvert not fast, their diastereomers might be able to appear. So in this section, our focused target is exocyclic single bond Ar-CO rotation and its role in the isomerization of AICA molecules. So far, there is no paper to investigate this aspect, although large amount of aromatic amides have been studied to determine barriers to rotation about the aryl-carbonyl bond by aid of VT NMR spectroscopy.

Since proteins and polypeptides contain peptide bonds (-CONH-) and nucleobases have quite a few aromatic ring nitrogens, and they are both play critical role in the life activities by means of hydrogen bonding, ${ }^{36}$ it could be of great interest to make AICA molecules as building blocks in proteins and enzymes and combine NMR technique with theoretical analysis to study their dynamics in solution.

Computations on Ar-CO bond rotation render four possible pathways for interconversion between A1, A2 and A3 rotamers, shown in two horizontal columns of Figure 9: A1 $\rightarrow$ CC-RTS(A1,A3') $\rightarrow$ A3', A1 $\rightarrow$ CC-RTS(A1,A2') $\rightarrow$ A2', and their prime processes. The barriers for CC-rotation A1 $\rightarrow$ A3' and A1 $\rightarrow$ A2' are $14.25 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and $11.55 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ (Table 6), respectively.

This isomerization pathway of AICA was constructed as a series of constrained optimization by taking $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ torsion angle $(\omega)$ at specified values. The
resulting curves were presented in Figure 11. Starting from A1d or A1d' associated with $\omega \approx 0^{\circ}$, it is conformational labile and this molecule may initially move along the rotation path at some stage, but finally it will switch to $\mathbf{A 1}$ or A1' rotation pathway. Same phenomenon could be observed during rotation of A2d and A3 analogues. Take A1 as a starting point at torsional angle c.a. $355^{\circ}$, counterclockwise rotating Ar-CO bond will lead to a transition state CC-RTS(A1,A2') at about $280^{\circ}$ with higher barrier ( $11.55 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ), and a minima structure A2' around $210^{\circ}$. Seen from Figure 11(c) clockwise rotation of minima A3' at c.a. $190^{\circ}$ will result in sharply drop to A1's pathway. Moreover, $\operatorname{ITS}\left(\mathbf{A 3}, \mathbf{A 3}^{\prime}\right)$ at $180^{\circ}$ correlate these pathway together and so does ITS(A2,A2d). As a result of its low barrier, this rotation could contribute to NMR dynamics.

In the several decades, Water dimmer, ammonia dimmer and water-ammonia aggregate have been exhaustively investigated in both experiment and theory. The main focus on these dimmers is their characteristic intermolecular hydrongen bonding, and most HB formation styles are displayed in Scheme 6.

a) linear (trans)

c) cyclic


e) trifurcated

b) linear (cis)

d) bifurcated

f) doubly bifurcated

a) linear eclipsed

c) cyclic






Scheme 6. Structures of dimers of water and ammonia and of the water-ammonia cluster.

For water dimers, ${ }^{37,38}$ the linear conformations are more stable than cyclic and multifurcated forms. Ammonia dimmer ${ }^{39,40}$ and water-ammonia dimmer ${ }^{41,42}$ are
more attractive in that they are analogous to A2/A3 and A1, respectively. Like water-ammonia dimmer, Intramolecular H -bonding $\mathrm{NH} \cdots \mathrm{O}=\mathrm{C}$ preferentially stablizes the AICA1 conformation. When rotation of Ar-CO happens, this H -bonds is going to be destroyed, then relatively weak interaction NH $\cdots \mathrm{NH}$ will form to generate AICA2 and AICA3, like ammonia-ammonia case. AICA2 features one intramolecular amino-amide H -bond $\left(\mathrm{NH} \cdots \mathrm{NH}_{2} \mathrm{CO}\right)$ and four HB -donors are available for interactions with solvent molecules. The H-bond in AICA2 is weaker than the one in AICA1 but it is steady (even in solvents with better HB donors).

## 4 Conclusion

In our study, we implemented a series of dynamic NMR experiments in two different solvents: acetone, acetonitrile. These dynamic studies indicate AICA compound presents in different conformations. Only one tautomation has been found in both acetone and acetonitrile, while it is well known that there are two tautomers found in natural world. In addition, the distinctive solvent and temperature effects on our sample have been observed during the dynamic experiment. What causes these NMR features is being assumed according to theoretical analysis.

The evaluation of NMR data has been carried out to calculate the barrier of these dynamic processes. The calculated energy barrier is in nice agreement with experiment one as shown in Table 2. On the other end, this indicates two most possible mechanisms to reflect plausible interconversion of AICA and interaction with solvent molecule in aqueous phase.

The future work is directed toward dynamics of AICA in a less polar solvent.

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## Appendix 1: Linear Regression Curves.

Figure A1. Linear regression curves for AICA in $\mathrm{D}_{3}$-Acetone.


Figure A2. Linear regression curves for AICA in $\mathrm{D}_{3}$-Acetonitrile.


## Appendix 2: MP2(full)/6-311++G** Data

Table A1. Total Energies and Thermodynamical Data for AICA in Gas Phase ${ }^{a, b}$

| Geometry | $E$ | VZPE | TE | $S$ | NIF | lowest $v_{1}$ | $\mu$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: | :---: |
| AICA1 := A1 | $C_{1}-449.393642$ | 72.24 | 77.47 | 88.65 | 0 | 78 | 4.75 |
| AICA1-dia := A1d | $C_{1}-449.393470$ | 72.21 | 77.45 | 88.56 | 0 | 74 | 4.87 |
| AICA2 := A2 | $C_{1}-449.377695$ | 72.24 | 77.44 | 89.06 | 0 | 59 | 7.27 |
| AICA2-dia := A2d | $C_{1}-449.376576$ | 72.14 | 77.41 | 89.62 | 0 | 62 | 7.59 |
| AICA3 := A3 | $C_{1}-449.376702$ | 72.03 | 77.29 | 89.93 | 0 | 41 | 9.55 |
| RTS1(A1,A1d') | $C_{1}-449.363658$ | 71.40 | 76.36 | 87.32 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 451$ | 4.60 |
| RTS2(A1,A1d') | $C_{1}-449.366075$ | 71.43 | 76.41 | 87.43 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 420$ | 6.83 |
| ITS(A1,A1d') | $C_{1}-449.393189$ | 71.55 | 76.63 | 88.04 | 1 | $\mathbf{i 4 3 9}$ | 4.57 |
| ITS(A1,A1d) | $C_{1}-449.388860$ | 70.85 | 76.19 | 89.91 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 755$ | 5.18 |
| RTS(A1,A1d) | $C_{1}-449.390123$ | 71.94 | 76.89 | 87.74 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 241$ | 3.74 |
| RTS2(A1,A1d) | $C_{1}-449.378533$ | 71.43 | 76.47 | 88.52 | 1 | $\mathbf{I} 249$ | 6.31 |
| RTS(A2,A2d') | $C_{1}-449.365638$ | 71.57 | 76.42 | 86.19 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 283$ | 6.93 |
| ITS(A2, A2d) | $C_{1}-449.372307$ | 71.14 | 76.41 | 91.21 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 594$ | 8.73 |
| RTS(A2,A2d) | $C_{1}-449.375292$ | 71.95 | 76.87 | 88.10 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 162$ | 6.44 |
| MPTSR-TS | $C_{1}-449.348304$ | 70.97 | 76.16 | 90.50 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 380$ | 8.19 |
| ITS(A3,A3') | $C_{s}-449.376088$ | 71.17 | 76.33 | 90.55 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 378$ | 9.61 |
| RTS(A3,A3') | $C_{1}-449.347992$ | 70.95 | 76.14 | 90.60 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 400$ | 10.24 |
| RTS(A2,A3') | $C_{1}-449.375612$ | 71.73 | 76.63 | 86.59 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 168$ | 9.13 |
| RTS(A2d,A3') | $C_{1}-449.369388$ | 71.43 | 76.52 | 89.87 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 213$ | 8.54 |
| CC-RTS(A1,A2') | $C_{1}-449.374739$ | 71.96 | 76.90 | 87.81 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 77$ | 5.36 |
| CC-RTS(A1,A3') | $C_{1}-449.369795$ | 71.40 | 76.50 | 87.81 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 80$ | 7.69 |

[^2]Table A2. Total Energies and Thermodynamical Data for AICA Considering Bulk Solvent. ${ }^{a, b}$

| Geometry |  | $E_{\mathrm{SP}}$ | $E$ | $V Z P E$ | $T E$ | $S$ | NIF | lowest $v_{1}$ | $\mu$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| In Acetone |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AICA1 := A1 | $C_{1}$ | -449.422519 | -449.423987 | 70.40 | 75.76 | 91.29 | 0 | 28 | 6.87 |
| AICA1-dia := A1d | $C_{1}$ | -449.422544 | -449.423997 | 70.57 | 75.81 | 88.53 | 0 | 88 | 7.21 |
| AICA2 := A2 | $C_{1}$ | -449.414268 | -449.416722 | 70.64 | 75.88 | 89.27 | 0 | 67 | 12.09 |
| AICA2-dia := A2d | $C_{1}$ | -449.412987 | -449.415046 | 70.67 | 75.91 | 89.01 | 0 | 88 | 11.93 |
| RTS1(A1,A1d') | $C_{1}$ | -449.396663 | -449.398049 | 69.91 | 74.81 | 86.37 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 427$ | 7.30 |
| RTS2(A1,A1d') | $C_{1}$ | -449.398276 | -449.399783 | 69.92 | 74.86 | 86.77 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 381$ | 10.00 |
| CC-RTS(A1,A2') | $C_{1}$ | -449.408386 | -449.410270 | 70.02 | 75.10 | 88.81 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 70$ | 9.56 |
| RTS(A2,A2d') | $C_{1}$ | -449.399364 | -449.400778 | 70.15 | 74.94 | 85.62 | 1 | $\mathbf{i 3 4 3}$ | 10.73 |
| In Acetonitrile |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AICA1 := A1 | $C_{1}$ | -449.423711 | -449.425401 | 70.43 | 75.69 | 88.66 | 0 | 89 | 6.99 |
| AICA1-dia := A1d | $C_{1}$ | -449.423770 | -449.425405 | 70.48 | 75.72 | 88.53 | 0 | 88 | 7.36 |
| AICA2 := A2 | $C_{1}$ | -449.415899 | -449.418623 | 70.53 | 75.78 | 89.42 | 0 | 62 | 12.36 |
| AICA2-dia := A2d | $C_{1}$ | -449.414640 | -449.416972 | 70.56 | 75.81 | 89.12 | 0 | 90 | 12.21 |
| RTS1(A1,A1d') | $C_{1}$ | -449.398136 | -449.399678 | 69.82 | 74.72 | 86.37 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 425$ | 7.44 |
| RTS2(A1,A1d') | $C_{1}$ | -449.399668 | -449.401348 | 69.83 | 74.76 | 86.76 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 380$ | 10.16 |
| CC-RTS(A1,A2') | $C_{1}$ | -449.409868 | -449.412020 | 69.90 | 74.98 | 88.58 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 69$ | 9.88 |
| RTS(A2,A2d') | $C_{1}$ | -449.400829 | -449.402412 | 70.06 | 74.86 | 85.60 | 1 | $\mathbf{i} 346$ | 10.92 |

[^3]
# Appendix 3: Gas Phase Cartesian Coordinates of (MP2(full)/6-311 ++G**) Optimized Minima Structures 

## AICA Related Stuffs in Gas Phase

A1
0,1
С,-0.0050102984,0.1493396285,0.1313544396
С,-0.014597789,-0.0810225315,2.2633875464
C,1.3219236596,-0.0816566162,1.8944262825
N,1.3082543227,0.0633136297,0.5305700317
H,2.1174466341,0.0150260028,-0.0722134932
H,-0.2851914356,0.2855264552,-0.9031740072
$\mathrm{N},-0.8299648144,0.0658693712,1.1572374719$
$\mathrm{N}, 2.4810656198,-0.302175969,2.6267131958$
H,3.1802131464,0.4216947556,2.5062383847
H,2.232076128,-0.3988477344,3.6086291266
С,-0.5034159092,-0.1914457656,3.6422875356
O,0.2622972542,-0.4079502537,4.5849571655
N,-1.8443981684,0.0108079488,3.7877700142
$\mathrm{H},-2.4159965741,-0.0092860124,2.9557650339$
Н,-2.2546496619,-0.2510298354,4.6707400248

> A1d
> 0,1
> $\mathrm{C},-0.0073572168,0.0158575975,-0.0068043686$
> $\mathrm{C}, 0.0024381919,0.0299481094,2.13794384$
> $\mathrm{C}, 1.3317865739,-0.0807653564,1.7595742403$
> $\mathrm{~N}, 1.3071112271,-0.0800256039,0.3882841767$
> $\mathrm{H}, 2.1179564715,-0.0565518556,-0.2137630741$
> $\mathrm{H},-0.2974490405,0.0150122471,-1.0475476212$
> $\mathrm{~N},-0.8211058879,0.0811902911,1.0288147055$
> $\mathrm{~N}, 2.5038505687,-0.067664477,2.5034039589$
> $\mathrm{H}, 3.1370876385,-0.8251193695,2.2742884007$
> $\mathrm{H}, 2.2611456006,-0.0924577295,3.4913917391$
> $\mathrm{C},-0.4772604385,0.030548463,3.5244698064$
> $\mathrm{O}, 0.2998337641,-0.0603368437,4.4785043462$
> $\mathrm{~N},-1.8255335391,0.1802980198,3.6598384959$
> $\mathrm{H},-2.400167501,0.0615845149,2.8385728753$
> $\mathrm{H},-2.2211165664,0.0001676078,4.5694069607$

## A2

0,1
C,0.0201343127,-0.074341131,0.1632170927
С, $0.0027497912,0.1122314569,2.2984628964$
C, 1.3427949206,0.0053184516,1.938448192
$\mathrm{N}, 1.3329992887,-0.118873611,0.5736886536$

Н,2.1427452685,-0.2785128801,-0.0088574189
H,-0.2586250309,-0.1498092297,-0.8780751382
N,-0.804587512,0.0711636834,1.1779935404
N,2.5344883634,-0.0432350762,2.6678807237
H,3.2352866304,0.5952554717,2.3071297071
H,2.3550336285,0.1733112499,3.6434166436
C,-0.530952342,0.3226537055,3.6566595618
O,-1.5219829062,0.980784088,3.9148342522
$\mathrm{N}, 0.275075984,-0.2498795203,4.6523084249$
Н,-0.149877045,-0.1974699165,5.570524409
Н,0.6307024915,-1.1717918402,4.4310849526

> A2d
> 0,1
> $\mathrm{C},-0.0135530286,0.0108506192,-0.0057656822$
> $\mathrm{C}, 0.0168349159,-0.0251956458,2.137127786$
> $\mathrm{C}, 1.34960315,-0.0731740472,1.7375476918$
> $\mathrm{~N}, 1.3060496587,-0.0521966145,0.3667389359$
> $\mathrm{H}, 2.1129915878,0.0455021493,-0.233620621$
> $\mathrm{H},-0.321475454,0.0060057181,-1.0416913543$
> $\mathrm{~N},-0.816407086,0.038029839,1.0388366159$
> $\mathrm{~N}, 2.575930286,-0.0034032023,2.4130005765$
> $\mathrm{H}, 3.1258022025,-0.8515828515,2.328782464$
> $\mathrm{H}, 2.4267341688,0.2035410121,3.3944736764$
> $\mathrm{C},-0.51061243,0.0491109656,3.5168887282$
> $\mathrm{O},-1.5237918394,0.6490367066,3.8246151423$
> $\mathrm{~N}, 0.310918577,-0.5712744657,4.4652645685$
> $\mathrm{H},-0.1255759121,-0.6290382964,5.3773067759$
> $\mathrm{H}, 0.7332553142,-1.4394479856,4.1640146687$

## A3

0,1
C,0.0487974662,0.1245603951,0.1625912544
C,-0.0297435642,0.0298300273,2.3040139585
C, $1.3192564132,-0.0242177668,1.9691312097$
N,1.3442141089,0.0339181025,0.5905295945
H,2.1728982822,0.0174223081,0.0121732984
Н,-0.2116055164,0.1840108792,-0.8850264648
$\mathrm{N},-0.8031737413,0.1264102815,1.170721636$
N,2.4643049381,-0.1239341993,2.7896917405
H,3.0983179399,0.6594260483,2.6753367586
Н,2.9691586918,-0.9938776256,2.6564471034
C,-0.6582054842,0.0334041374,3.6571221758
O,-1.8427450004,0.2720652294,3.8251971892 N,0.1969654967,-0.3060374193,4.6798571691 H,1.1921822212,-0.2295795117,4.5129348985 Н,-0.1492026042,-0.1166365486,5.6089207669

## AICA Transition States in Gas Phase RTS1(A1,A1d')

0,1
C,0.0166617877,0.0344973565,-0.0213167642
C,-0.0439744746,-0.0027008216,2.1199666173
C, $1.3106438328,-0.006182369,1.7752353793$
$\mathrm{N}, 1.3302482709,0.0159434385,0.409801867$
H,2.1530271195,-0.0637504941,-0.1709766191
H,-0.2367058233,0.0680226297,-1.0714660096
N,-0.8321437199,0.0285315048,0.9801622253
$\mathrm{N}, 2.445414755,-0.125381841,2.5524027699$
H,3.2093286362,0.4830266541,2.2865503251
H,2.2030828041,-0.0358129803,3.5351366292
C,-0.512900431,0.0197767967,3.4942575771
O,0.2800847145,-0.0250787252,4.4341041676
N,-1.9384191967,0.1004043305,3.6727537601
H,-2.2086192853,-0.6955069102,4.247983216
H,-2.1158311671,0.9182513381,4.2532753605

## RTS2(A1,A1d')

0,1
C,0.0101548388,0.0382230328,-0.0089392298
С,-0.0130737531,0.0339216208,2.1368834502
C, $1.3309681924,-0.0019656824,1.7714546919$
N,1.325685706,-0.0018355246,0.4034120155
H,2.1368537353,-0.105157992,-0.1901865303
Н,-0.2616804679,0.0630233212,-1.054446019
$\mathrm{N},-0.8202730892,0.0637462267,1.0116492096$
$\mathrm{N}, 2.4767099645,-0.1363199024,2.532625249$
H,3.2330934638,0.4832335529,2.2697051604
H,2.2451441787,-0.0525183296,3.5186384718
С,-0.5010695332,0.0822492934,3.5140512188
O,0.2780326982,0.0316614151,4.4555048931
$\mathrm{N},-1.9187491295,0.1933454778,3.7236850347$
H,-2.2377057102,1.0181305134,3.2169642864
H,-2.3585115213,-0.5793503775,3.2249279909

## ITS(A1,A1d')

## 0,1

C,-0.0110778728,-0.0064719636,0.1205649459
C, $0.0050329918,-0.0408207901,2.2650778759$
C,1.3368067701,0.0039900828,1.8828506266
N,1.3075507833,0.0176074811,0.5114121145
H,2.1142580972,-0.045560549,-0.093326869
Н,-0.3044424318,0.0175359791,-0.9189908546
$\mathrm{N},-0.8237920615,-0.0385770555,1.1589056844$

N,2.510158374,-0.0800872318,2.6209097247
H,3.1728140451,0.6576945754,2.4111528687
H,2.2706203742,-0.0729044715,3.6101002054
С, $-0.4684675878,-0.0210407396,3.6545053113$
O,0.3171849113,-0.040383828,4.6065856965
N,-1.8191774806,0.0176802784,3.7896563196
$\mathrm{H},-2.4034452542,0.0529564914,2.9690254257$
H,-2.2169709976,0.0439516932,4.7139933249

## ITS(A1,A1d)

0,1
C,-0.0180033364,0.0078872179,-0.0216851949
C,- $-0.0108725176,0.0202804682,2.1241179722$
C, $1.3248898408,-0.0502056615,1.747462986$
$\mathrm{N}, 1.3042521837,-0.0512534885,0.3766392433$
$\mathrm{H}, 2.1062863378,-0.1020738279,-0.2342824758$
H,-0.3007704184,0.0182733111,-1.0642412242
N,-0.8321855591,0.0509201892,1.0109011992
N,2.4476929328,-0.1057551817,2.5150758112
H,3.3719386022,-0.1297642577,2.1262136202
H,2.2984621966,-0.1277969684,3.5135798235
C,-0.4736188939, $0.0305727767,3.5086865052$
O,0.3165224242,-0.0687814626,4.4535492612
N,-1.8194273923,0.2066945072,3.668294705
H,-2.4065500442,0.0710006902,2.858237858
H,-2.1981346998,0.0032192457,4.5803615764

## RTS1(A1,A1d)

0,1
C,-0.006297196,0.0045395416,0.0184902184
C, $0.0045571916,-0.0008783804,2.1644077884$
C, 1.3376937504,-0.0559474373,1.7814453128
$\mathrm{N}, 1.2993029257,-0.0485006113,0.4089114687$
H,2.1232928571,-0.071185709,-0.1767623029
Н,-0.3073198495,0.016962643,-1.0191647148
$\mathrm{N},-0.8214788337,0.0355544834,1.063105383$
N,2.574687883,-0.1027288972,2.4558076322
H,2.6260591197,0.6689628932,3.1142017681
H,2.6195112351,-0.9466175014,3.0196120836
C,-0.50558638,0.0032519534,3.5510892156
O, $0.2372570866,-0.1290660629,4.5210624136$
N,-1.8510378624,0.2118266166,3.6430089058
H,-2.4020251217,0.1180409299,2.8021121057
H,-2.282916475,0.0359101278,4.5369555225

RTS2(A1,A1d)
0,1

C,-1.5896209801,-1.5165202134,-0.0553108231
C, $0.1184699369,-0.2079099944,-0.0194028532$
C,-0.9910077721,0.6268123016,0.0239821054
N,-2.0694751791,-0.2424703148,0.0000374991
Н,-3.0403619684,0.0365983736,0.0331326263
H,-2.2331335886,-2.3841081867,-0.0947321276
$\mathrm{N},-0.2667774931,-1.5311052048,-0.0645526175$
$\mathrm{N},-1.0999107015,2.0178624388,0.0951339631$
H,-1.5958502712,2.4460833613,-0.6737436634
H,-1.395862106,2.3767527599,0.9921442386
C,1.5598614946,0.1616733078,-0.0279239238
O,1.9661810864,1.3031298448,-0.1907052001
$\mathrm{N}, 2.3800051242,-0.9116951395,0.2116312072$
H,1.985487667,-1.8347276934,0.101351226
H,3.3582605783,-0.7767483748,0.0062706465

## ITS(A2,A2d)

0,1
C,1.8977705535,-1.2332619308,0.1077237801
С,-0.0625490837,-0.3627804846,0.0413819167
C, $0.8301873147,0.702792001,-0.0541860697$
N,2.0755172956,0.1303021138,-0.0005875594
H,2.952030588,0.6098912277,-0.1474759591
H,2.7327029765,-1.9132933121,0.1985111862
$\mathrm{N}, 0.6254793118,-1.5593709866,0.1250823146$
$\mathrm{N}, 0.6454613944,2.0556640251,-0.2215958504$
H,1.3588144595,2.7201932204,0.0163772642
H,-0.2287752056,2.3844305917,-0.5941265942
C,-1.5341794169,-0.310145658,-0.0163901932
O,-2.2383547223,-1.2406050167,-0.3646159064
$\mathrm{N},-2.0640391894,0.94973052,0.2990377841$
Н,-3.0702920037,0.9201099461, 0.4089498182
Н,-1.5921941741, 1.4344679824,1.0520800215

## RTS(A2,A2d)

0,1
C, $0.0000077585,0.0005817832,-0.000112199$
C,-0.0001874103,-0.0002091504,2.1427633949
C, $1.3398785842,-0.0003667077,1.7638751115$
$\mathrm{N}, 1.306438327,0.0026208648,0.3899120614$
H,2.1319567595,0.0396337531,-0.1925471498
Н,-0.3000965214,-0.0139732536,-1.0381879474
$\mathrm{N},-0.8204644855,0.0050925252,1.0395166192$
N,2.5860665738,0.0768417057,2.4242084004
H,2.7494200489,-0.7290280177,3.0157033758
H,2.6354947166,0.9041207097,3.0089655189
С,-0.5548831346,0.0595400919,3.5195762279
O,-1.4627759117,0.8038631671,3.8453635559

N,0.1078040846,-0.7604633931,4.42264519
Н,-0.3451781439,-0.8333380831,5.3245855425
H,0.4697943791,-1.6291290352,4.0572072456

RTS(A2,A2d')<br>0,1<br>C,-0.0027497812,0.1767446764,-0.0096937918<br>C,-0.0064402192,-0.0510191435,2.1231053876<br>C, 1.3397138193,-0.0548150357,1.7410422552<br>$\mathrm{N}, 1.3180823666,0.0931123104,0.3811714799$<br>Н,2.1234930531,0.0327297788,-0.2257515246<br>H,-0.2843324178,0.3143306392,-1.0442310802<br>$\mathrm{N},-0.8222330987,0.0954611495,1.0106956482$<br>N,2.5196696964,-0.2737577704,2.4336869259<br>H,3.2556498309,0.3824448242,2.2013528913<br>Н,2.3145532125,-0.2769329703,3.4314189921<br>C,-0.5481399189,-0.166124201,3.4689389297<br>O,-1.7303175058,-0.179478323,3.7443998442<br>$\mathrm{N}, 0.4964847073,-0.2670640003,4.4984377758$<br>H,0.3256599185,0.5058138379,5.141745327<br>H,0.2705845536,-1.0988848589,5.0435416443

## ITS(A3,A3')

0,1
C,-0.0006224894,0.,-0.0025651929
C,0.0016588258,0.,2.1428872209
C,1.3388263849,0.,1.7593272196
N,1.3120897276,0.,0.3794719069
H,2.1194714005,0.,-0.2284751171
H,-0.300832625,0.,-1.0411915149
N,-0.8149734721,0., 1.0361479786
N,2.5165653141,0.,2.5394259536
H,3.083082786,0.8290721487,2.3948204546
Н,3.083082786,-0.8290721487,2.3948204546
C,-0.5830875991,0.,3.517149085
O,-1.7881300817,0.,3.7129369804
N,0.3443676709,0.,4.5224598924
H,1.3332785078,0.,4.3177208645
H,0.0054200146,0.,5.4708443246

## RTS(A3,A3')

0,1
C,1.8602389124,-1.2635592679,0.1262294254
C,-0.0819115283,-0.3561929322,0.0343268446
C, $0.8313564466,0.6923300829,-0.053019683$
N,2.0679438277,0.0830114007,0.0069111776
Н,2.9605461371,0.5547114354,-0.0437590274
Н,2.6748115025,-1.9700446989,0.2062195845
$\mathrm{N}, 0.5752875834,-1.5628074612,0.1396531904$ $\mathrm{N}, 0.6318550616,2.0766582232,-0.2275285254$ H,1.0597186207,2.4311533139,-1.0753153159 H,0.9340896858,2.6281309914,0.5677101554
C,-1.5667672227,-0.2888390777,-0.0419976737
O,-2.2195237727,-1.2307389229,-0.4294867056
N,-2.1959825311,0.9458822916,0.3647599735
H,-1.8479765216,1.1765852928,1.2938002864
H,-1.8287173293,1.6895565024,-0.2274068289

## RTS(A2d,A3')

0,1
C,1.8461448381,-1.2681269383,0.2079802208
С,-0.0753698526,-0.3310389894,0.036535513
C, $0.8534670459,0.6931988312,-0.1073190447$
N,2.0774782718,0.0667122134,0.0099252892
H,2.9792658407,0.519369795,-0.0415739492
H,2.647093283,-1.9850007935,0.3204290437
$\mathrm{N}, 0.5544547839,-1.5394750731,0.2364329092$
N,0.6962334894,2.0526548424,-0.4073124756
H,1.4633998869,2.44823214,-0.9336261199
H, $0.4590313393,2.6362130474,0.3833342471$
C,-1.5545981511,-0.2432297372,-0.0666647592
O,-2.2219695993,-1.0137859622,-0.735420457
N,-2.101143658,0.8266703218,0.6190111969
H,-3.1110097579,0.8263864229,0.6702005549
Н,-1.6221527689,1.1315624133,1.4523371681

## CC-RTS(A1,A3')

0,1
C,-0.001053397,0.0149902104,0.0073944586 C,0.0107337531,-0.006150323,2.1494331033 C,1.3417018291,-0.0083052605,1.774103097 N,1.3103749904,-0.0005384082,0.3906775661 H,2.1148787422,-0.0343326574,-0.219390335 Н,-0.3040891009,0.0521696888,-1.0293935306 $\mathrm{N},-0.816453811,0.0029408799,1.0514154417$ $\mathrm{N}, 2.4958314737,-0.049883127,2.570983897$ H,2.8536988776,-0.9853765072,2.720619344 H,3.2312124272,0.573338182,2.2641994674 С,-0.513022659,-0.1048763838,3.5460420822 O,-0.8374409981,-1.1689075183,4.0515425198 N,-0.6232367258,1.098271006,4.1857075762 Н,-0.1794758786,1.9123572862,3.7944974323 Н,-0.8350213868,1.0885348857,5.1725144384

CC-RTS(A1,A2')

0,1
C, 1.8839273744,-1.2366497386,0.1031619125
C, $-0.0544375944,-0.3334862266,-0.0210713814$
C, $0.8495650832,0.716380466,-0.0468332808$
N,2.0821422166,0.1099604874,0.0319073238
H,2.9607850001,0.6094966437,0.0391968697
H,2.6963202576,-1.9455326545,0.1726328771
$\mathrm{N}, 0.59204396,-1.5419171709,0.0771048724$
$\mathrm{N}, 0.74677775,2.1196443005,-0.1396613138$
H,0.4648974238,2.409833192,-1.070122579
H,0.0699167389,2.4794833998,0.5235539608
C, $-1.5393475094,-0.2247514991,-0.1201103168$
O,-2.1573834501,-0.4089482633,-1.1557449794
$\mathrm{N},-2.1367340654,0.185604562,1.0528755787$
H,-1.6469381659,-0.0101937202,1.9130058646
H,-3.1451700194,0.1118252218,1.0832885916

RTS(A2,A3')
0,1
C,0.0000179006,-0.0003991995,0.0000069649
C,- $-0.0000535849,0.0004015985,2.1458771288$
C, $1.3374149416,0.0005301031,1.7641071215$
$\mathrm{N}, 1.3179698248,0.0010824037,0.390889412$
H,2.1232367676,-0.0478126138,-0.2173022538
Н, $-0.2903552877,0.022385511,-1.0407480735$
$\mathrm{N},-0.8151432554,-0.0109525426,1.0331439201$
N,2.5142001214,0.0344683521,2.5293727936
H,3.3505273644,0.185124824,1.9799475882
H,2.6218335426,-0.7870852095,3.114238716
C,-0.5639541223,0.0126838976,3.5163228985
O,-1.7405170673,-0.1955726402,3.7563703502
$\mathrm{N}, 0.3786624708,0.2222768657,4.51412969$
H,1.2029989328,0.7547607536,4.2671830367
H,-0.0284045013, 0.4336587396,5.4149296864

## MPTSR-TS

0,1
C,-1.854646932,-1.2822762687,-0.0886005246
C, $0.0778458226,-0.3476980498,0.008799262$
С, $-0.85947409,0.6924593456,0.032448085$
$\mathrm{N},-2.0762573057,0.0628558728,-0.0299854713$
Н,-2.9602790717,0.553880223,-0.0437878246
H,-2.6579665612,-2.0031108735,-0.1483225623
$\mathrm{N},-0.5659596827,-1.5651363965,-0.0664344487$

N,-0.8501774029,2.1022005305,0.111908094
Н,-0.5779543868,2.4412177461, 1.0273621405
H,-0.2601247804,2.5263742347,-0.5919248903
C, $1.5583859472,-0.2935596142,0.0737656793$
O,2.2250199218,-1.2880200471,0.2425010637
N,2.2009072912,0.9987280093,-0.0797277508
H,1.94218552,1.3996874814,-0.9774176438
H,1.865952123,1.6339235505,0.6389451782

## Appendix 4: Solution Cartesian Coordinates of (PCM/MP2(full) /6-311++G**) Optimized Structures for AICA.

## AICA Minima and Transition States in Acetone

A1
0,1
C,0.0151883815,0.0132228582,0.008636982
C,-0.0138836574,-0.0148747698,2.1589704778
C, $1.3294404146,-0.0121935449,1.7901985019$
N,1.3209440576,-0.0063605632,0.4238849439
H,2.1488941554,-0.0149735542,-0.186090762
Н,-0.2548044649,0.0334191684,-1.0415173605
$\mathrm{N},-0.8214078011,0.0079383015,1.0329213297$
$\mathrm{N}, 2.4891682143,-0.1206614993,2.5340065639$
H,3.2672826329,0.4276025639,2.1671933901
H,2.3176238844,0.0812935143,3.5152893063
C,-0.5189873839,0.016402258,3.5289244261
O,0.2509793875,-0.0562878977,4.5025397141
N,-1.86090801,0.1789520673,3.6617612354
H,-2.4547247992,0.0422508276,2.8510514406
Н,-2.2641107698,0.013575712,4.5800347991

> A1d
> 0,1
> $\mathrm{C}, 0.0152572839,-0.0013081959,0.0079515853$
> $\mathrm{C},-0.01391042,0.0210956305,2.1585022728$
> $\mathrm{C}, 1.3294640755,0.007594162,1.7897487417$
> $\mathrm{~N}, 1.3209981871,0.0091212903,0.4234253059$
> $\mathrm{H}, 2.1489215322,0.0131873605,-0.1866415$
> $\mathrm{H},-0.2551795637,-0.0166646458,-1.0421468539$
> $\mathrm{~N},-0.8214398589,0.0056066084,1.0321556711$
> $\mathrm{~N}, 2.4893085657,0.1057001461,2.5349086478$
> $\mathrm{H}, 3.2713731133,-0.426374809,2.1528492015$
> $\mathrm{H}, 2.3201794367,-0.124863199,3.510354293$
> $\mathrm{C},-0.5195370769,-0.0293018286,3.5275087981$
> $\mathrm{O}, 0.2549501506,-0.0511118004,4.5006719336$
> $\mathrm{~N},-1.8702854161,-0.0026486038,3.6632761668$
> $\mathrm{H},-2.4502234823,-0.1835035503,2.8512611537$

## A2

0,1
C,0.0067458227,0.0535782212,0.0124602882
C,-0.018468092,0.0013838358,2.1636152804
C,1.3257796655,-0.0139575882,1.7872338912
N,1.3127912376,0.0089112512,0.4217387135
H,2.1399250091,0.0242532931,-0.1900764587
H,-0.2677380886,0.0755492123,-1.0364994287
$\mathrm{N},-0.8252951461,0.0590686699,1.0391470206$
$\mathrm{N}, 2.5058381238,-0.1129832549,2.5146834798$
H,3.3155902344,0.2342912284,1.998707005
H,2.4512209498,0.3570700036,3.4163637774
С,- $-0.583104335,-0.0117751739,3.5183702189$
O,-1.7041784151,0.4328662,3.7802706242
$\mathrm{N}, 0.2567816991,-0.5007506622,4.4886513805$ Н,-0.1694576722,-0.6271196872,5.405181718 H,0.9166650995,-1.2260175078,4.2232219643

## A2d

0,1
C, $0.0074278458,-0.0050328388,0.0131596547$
C,-0.0042160187,0.023488016,2.1645625928
C,1.3376446869,0.0111767093,1.7821028605
N,1.3144819112,-0.0046436585,0.4149736616
H,2.1386298178,0.0234787315,-0.1997189859
H,-0.2754320774,-0.0489858973,-1.0329291653
N,-0.8194359541,0.0274200803,1.0451338185
N,2.5337462454,0.1637694407,2.4756253359
H,3.2627561621,-0.4828875161,2.1714226423
H,2.4143945885,0.1078001316,3.4814561874
C,-0.5669645765,0.0829351445,3.5230917304
O,-1.6244996711,0.6625488314,3.7797084543
$\mathrm{N}, 0.2062486248,-0.5033554092,4.4940261554$
H,-0.2177732632,-0.5501575521,5.4193233655
$\mathrm{H}, 0.7482257388,-1.3231413851,4.2309616903$

## RTS1(A1,A1d')

0,1
C,0.0099454029,0.0070117648,0.0100966322
C, $-0.0107844333,0.0033504828,2.1606294213$
C, $1.3401385367,-0.0023470184,1.7755018489$
N,1.3243980749,-0.0095158924,0.4149700579
H,2.1479524211,-0.0211952948,-0.2015629319
Н,-0.2627151864,0.0155965228,-1.0398734173
N,-0.8225592021,0.0161164315,1.0318171782
N,2.4901001077,-0.0983856317,2.5161362806

H,3.3153769308,0.3253115429,2.0934769546
H,2.3546327695,0.1642558536,3.4877692467
C, $-0.4570719482,0.0455780421,3.5327922679$
O,0.3520735637,0.0369612526,4.4660887788
N,-1.87929469,0.0969526884,3.7421848826
Н,-2.1136389256,-0.6968866252,4.3480100317
Н,-2.0574791037,0.924156038,4.3219441366

## RTS2(A1,A1d')

0,1
C,0.0105251715,0.0119013836,0.0127891618
C,-0.013937937,0.0000700428,2.1635571769
C, $1.3350961088,-0.0041097829,1.7849852867$
N,1.3219215811,-0.00601587,0.4229585793
Н,2.1474274202,-0.0163127539,-0.1914384215
H,-0.2598694099,0.0249052649,-1.0376270877
N,-0.8238038585,0.0167242921,1.0348119876
N,2.4840418554,-0.1052401948,2.5298069405
H,3.3055620481,0.3340437618,2.1154020451
H,2.345030285,0.1547130752,3.5019662933
C,-0.5003218288,0.0356864588,3.5274631053
O,0.276505137,0.0194424196,4.4812871508
N,-1.9195229875,0.0910075981,3.7494440077
Н,-2.2817101855,0.9081176548,3.2470296008
Н,-2.3409036956,-0.7072134693,3.2629359643

## RTS(A2, A2d')

0,1
C,0.004652274,0.004576033,0.0086083904
C,-0.0066661142,-0.0269286876,2.1605262886
C, 1.3439158209,-0.0096282049,1.7719663854
N,1.3185186285,0.0027447461,0.4093236503
H,2.1408202445,-0.0004470044,-0.2089820443
H,-0.2728258219,0.0283052287,-1.0400665253
$\mathrm{N},-0.8220552392,-0.0167245832,1.0332230989$
N,2.5149715758,-0.1128198025,2.4840543384
H,3.3003405851,0.4019543677,2.0869005372
H,2.3515744539,0.0807926597,3.4689321838
C,-0.540436906,-0.0061196416,3.5037625425
O,-1.7377805167,-0.041157909,3.7653953787
N,0.4800822111,0.0683153633,4.5326314208
H,0.2747289853,0.9098581007,5.0836325804
H,0.3069594771,-0.7112336957,5.1773571245

## CC-RTS(A1,A2')

0,1
C, 1.836492244,-1.2875472745,0.0374070739
C,-0.0727464507,-0.2990986467,-0.0348636306

C,0.8786246103,0.7086415885,-0.0129740214
N,2.0829059565,0.0523956087,0.0259101353
H,3.0079984048,0.5006297952,0.02570328
H,2.6282020097,-2.0264988235,0.0885044642
N,0.5316954699,-1.540649629,-0.0107884724
$\mathrm{N}, 0.8133670229,2.1036432736,-0.1097011117$
H,-0.1381499482,2.4267623243,-0.2797891221
H,1.1713440846,2.5655438424,0.7282618628
C,-1.5533603898,-0.1547835833,-0.1243128365
O,-2.1454495881,-0.1114530332,-1.2086199891
N,-2.1813275368,-0.054730723,1.0668043201
Н,-1.6678850636,-0.1957621851,1.9312133193
Н,-3.199124632,-0.0385657032,1.0960744346

## AICA Minima and Transition States in Acetonitrile

A1
0,1
C, $0.0161164702,0.0170949738,0.0095551085$
С,-0.0146912246,-0.0077110724,2.160182568
C, $1.329188975,-0.0115013279,1.7918381907$
N,1.3211675209,-0.0080209228,0.4256960816
H,2.150286722,-0.0166753915,-0.1842620755
Н,-0.253059459,0.0380250371,-1.0410203698
N,-0.8212647774,0.0167969714,1.0333383096
N,2.4888476292,-0.1248958138,2.5351700432
H,3.2740844996,0.4058500734,2.1567066311
H,2.3239611688,0.0957518765,3.5136633471
С,-0.5217729035,0.0216586638,3.5292807684
O, $0.2479954161,-0.0431767828,4.5041086727$
N,-1.8650172776,0.1715185876,3.6615092563
H,-2.458484112,0.0288109183,2.8511877117
Н,-2.2666644055,0.0057796514,4.580850745

## A1d

0,1
C,0.0156127313,-0.0012437369,0.0090455381
C,-0.0145007631,0.020873086,2.1599163689
C, $1.3293034925,0.0074142679,1.7910244205$
N,1.3210503842,0.0088964074,0.4250171847
H,2.1500885169,0.0105872533,-0.1853658997
H,-0.2539746809,-0.0166078676,-1.0415097113
$\mathrm{N},-0.8214733241,0.0055609511,1.0329997635$
N,2.4891875185,0.1043153852,2.5356888916
H,3.2755020635,-0.4149582028,2.1438512425
H,2.32592572,-0.1393722444,3.5089470541
C,-0.5216376482,-0.0266659107,3.5282698868 O,0.2514960023,-0.0448170649,4.5025694992 $\mathrm{N},-1.8730215181,0.0007041267,3.6629583839$

## A2 <br> 0,1 <br> C,0.0071735086,0.0577906944,0.0131569549 <br> C, $-0.0195498944,0.0036205514,2.1648160138$ <br> C, 1.3248878765,-0.0142326216,1.7886118425 <br> N,1.3123401757,0.0103726178,0.4233111089 <br> Н,2.1410806804,0.0268788787,-0.1881441286 <br> Н,-0.2666266705,0.0812479423,-1.0361426355 <br> N,-0.8255917392,0.0639485399,1.0397677825 <br> N,2.5034890737,-0.1171792599,2.5175303014 <br> H,3.3186707092,0.2034748117,1.9921506135 <br> H,2.4593236966,0.3750133393,3.4085927926 <br> C,-0.5868942359,-0.0166619196,3.518288589 <br> O,-1.7144018546,0.4165249915,3.7762524008 <br> N,0.2520208389,-0.4984794138,4.4905974064 <br> Н,-0.1741788139,-0.6313118312,5.4064519672 <br> H,0.9313527414,-1.2066392797,4.2278284652

## A2d

0,1
C,0.0083607698,-0.0030629239,0.0139653291
C,-0.0058789519,0.0220743601,2.1659822131
C,1.3366673881,0.008978358,1.7844499913
N,1.3147368653,-0.0041516245,0.4175828692
H,2.1403649697,0.0186247294,-0.1968524362
H,-0.2728992763,-0.0441766226,-1.0327930427
N,-0.8197799314,0.0277555621,1.0450698855
N,2.5315286799,0.1603023448,2.4784684311
H,3.2733344026,-0.4577199295,2.1461496647
H,2.4224119709,0.0683992145,3.4827802757
С,- $-0.5713406509,0.0811139078,3.5226938324$
O,-1.6348832269,0.6540867911,3.7743924789
N,0.2020990289,-0.4952550927,4.4977150439
H,-0.2229054986,-0.5413945255,5.4228430467
H,0.7534175211,-1.3111617209,4.2404524158

## RTS1(A1,A1d')

0,1
C,0.0103011077,0.0071377459,0.0110525239
С,- $-0.0110360119,0.0038522083,2.1620301913$
C, $1.3401387579,-0.0021447143,1.7766009206$
N,1.3242161772,-0.0097531431,0.4162961867
H,2.1488499035,-0.0185209498,-0.2006283043
$\mathrm{H},-0.2619237118,0.0154263997,-1.0392324109$
$\mathrm{N},-0.8226384914,0.0166293267,1.0327480934$
$\mathrm{N}, 2.4903989625,-0.0980000177,2.5161489292$
H,3.3176629512,0.3161218458,2.0868725022
H,2.3602885136,0.1736793064,3.4862156608
С,- $-0.4584319238,0.0450217621,3.5334820477$
O,0.3495324353,0.034931355,4.4680031441
N,-1.8808600883,0.0968451932,3.7414846426
H,-2.1163045488,-0.6977995791,4.3463774142
H,-2.0591197149,0.9235334182,4.3225298273

## RTS2(A1,A1d')

0,1
C,0.011015745,0.0127996215,0.0136023242
С,- $-0.0146965339,0.0014780448,2.1646357915$
C, 1.3347501849,-0.0039974568,1.7861625896
N,1.3219132621,-0.0064461197,0.4244264387
H,2.1487149313,-0.0142502669,-0.1900443898
Н,-0.2586099084,0.0255604969,-1.037220309
N,-0.8240692713,0.0187041832,1.0352195286
N,2.4835298084,-0.1055453744,2.5305957985
H,3.3079793158,0.3220743941,2.1087896363
H,2.3496557678,0.1662816767,3.5004235657
C,-0.5017688427,0.0354561949,3.527717717
O, $0.2742465661,0.0188012314,4.4826899819$
N,-1.921089927,0.089280957,3.7493578455
H,-2.2837828543,0.9066979582,3.2470931741
H,-2.3417485394,-0.7091756603,3.2619220983

[^4]```
CC-RTS(A1,A2')
0,1
C,1.8549352151,-1.2698283869,-0.0053349258
C,-0.0745095527,-0.3182020532,-0.053890651
C,0.8563217256,0.7069134828,0.0081231675
N,2.0733663843,0.0749878621,0.0307699653
H,2.9901934901,0.5412230837,0.0586671657
H,2.662178303,-1.9931683105,0.0248971598
N,0.5560227293,-1.5476550672,-0.068943283
N,0.7600951819,2.1012473215,-0.0468849184
H,-0.2077328122,2.4117640574,-0.1276053944
H,1.1800248783,2.5486668456,0.7703608277
C,-1.5569153343,-0.2025783884,-0.1510107528
O,-2.1394698752,-0.1224278224,-1.2394270137
N,-2.198741513,-0.1777068446,1.0352290011
H,-1.6884129113,-0.3258970887,1.9007287355
H,-3.217209419,-0.1732370692,1.0566325785
```


## AICA Minima and Transition States in Chloroform

## A1

0,1
C,-0.0052116957,-0.0075736374,-0.0047232603
C,0.0049176407,-0.0059210713,2.1440307686
C,1.3403649944,0.0010376175,1.7548897366
N,1.3092515371,-0.0101456632,0.3874733556
H,2.1220865347,-0.0428750703,-0.2318508703
H,-0.294944889,-0.0021562084,-1.0485597157
N,-0.8226222094,-0.0058358389,1.033776038
$\mathrm{N}, 2.5123752433,-0.0906913613,2.4854743328$
H,3.2529268038,0.524676752,2.1549683435
H,2.3248937747,0.0530766762,3.4741958018
С,- $-0.4731361794,0.0384274044,3.5253186213$
O,0.3132379709,-0.0228786431,4.483230272
N,-1.814347086,0.2002458772,3.6761773727
H,-2.4145388807,0.054269506,2.8734600411
H,-2.2016398406,0.0421449773,4.6000294155

## A1d

0,1
C, $0.0106711498,-0.002471934,0.0042419058$
C,-0.0088946698,0.0103716322,2.152997866
C,1.3317815715,0.0064385402,1.7823080109
N,1.3196254965,0.0094050863,0.4145527802
H,2.1405420275,0.0464899925,-0.1936409226
Н,-0.2648087728,-0.01768863,-1.0433176867

N, $-0.8210124759,-0.002232564,1.0312987962$ N,2.4925620752,0.1087372631,2.5294603152 H,3.2463769532,-0.4925171757,2.2029623116 H,2.2930419582,-0.0517972836,3.5133053771
С,-0.5068008678,-0.0408881196,3.5270858209
O,0.269811978,-0.0743337999,4.4946149851
$\mathrm{N},-1.8581863193,-0.0053816929,3.6631492737$
H,-2.4357140787,-0.1680617429,2.8473627031
Н,-2.2424954501,-0.2195457655,4.5768457942

## A2

0,1
C, $0.0044414963,0.0380343062,0.0079358768$
C, $-0.0142566409,-0.0072059613,2.1568168064$
C,1.3286941707,-0.0132491725,1.7805406336
$\mathrm{N}, 1.3144420821,0.0038295543,0.4137410921$
H,2.1346658393,0.0082148922,-0.1970680933
H,-0.2732260884,0.0558359601,-1.0391043322
$\mathrm{N},-0.8238929603,0.0401491839,1.0350311757$
$\mathrm{N}, 2.514343615,-0.0993627458,2.5048726111$
H,3.2946427959,0.3606471693,2.0386113373
H,2.4133946492,0.2735121844,3.4451274038
С,- $-0.5672187699,0.0084584214,3.5180874949$
О,-1.6614337504,0.4932784127,3.7966218141
$\mathrm{N}, 0.2806236331,-0.5071957456,4.480064588$
H,-0.1443841907,-0.6085421785,5.3985987902
$\mathrm{H}, 0.8622602114,-1.2920362397,4.2031922759$

## A2d

0,1
C, $0.0031057254,-0.0043659921,0.0075892053$
C,0.0015260336,0.0194132679,2.156024976
C,1.3410314482,0.0125609445,1.7706421809
N,1.312882749,-0.0005373269,0.4018813179
H,2.1309369672,0.0592035013,-0.2089695448
H,-0.2870453013,-0.0465800909,-1.0354622213
N,-0.8186013849,0.0235297577,1.0430322365
$\mathrm{N}, 2.5475031244,0.1532026528,2.4599559158$
H,3.1916841445,-0.6206986359,2.3033311517
H,2.3965719435,0.2760346926,3.4559751409
С,- $-0.5544771153,0.0797766873,3.5213222699$
O,-1.6016822989,0.6618688129,3.7898322977
N,0.2307811872,-0.5156054312,4.4855245252
H,-0.1988744651,-0.5777786928,5.4052119403
H,0.7598913027,-1.3356113191,4.2070086064

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RTS1(A1,A1d')
0,1
C,0.0069141344,0.0053270444,0.0067367475
C,-0.0076824135,0.0000272157,2.1547617449
C,1.3413057713,-0.0027535026,1.7702113468
N,1.3246856736,-0.0071959749,0.4083439113
H,2.1420191099,-0.0370414669,-0.2055863245
H,-0.2690473016,0.0154571286,-1.0411270732
N,-0.8220675859,0.0115331064,1.0293986166
N,2.4920876283,-0.0992827721,2.5141331898
H,3.300664584,0.3818201407,2.1282399869
H,2.3293695282,0.1134110202,3.4935296515
C,-0.448797756,0.045508468,3.5309044168
O,0.3641156213,0.0364731255,4.459371438
N,-1.8701704648,0.1017216541,3.7434555517
H,-2.1061678636,-0.6886473549,4.3497679063
H,-2.0461543477,0.9306023251,4.3178402582
```


## RTS2(A1,A1d')

0,1
C,0.0076992717,0.0092389877,0.0082783708
С, $-0.0100568973,-0.0026144023,2.1575668569$
C, 1.3364877781,-0.0043648966,1.7787285
$\mathrm{N}, 1.321650099,-0.0048778511,0.4150728206$
H,2.1406027498,-0.0339973173,-0.1972708796
Н,-0.2666496253,0.0234155279,-1.0398535689
$\mathrm{N},-0.8228361181,0.0118743879,1.0323094626$
N,2.4865415584,-0.1061342262,2.5260579256
H,3.2886801529,0.3959722791,2.1530921567
H,2.3190434862,0.0961101095,3.5070791901
С,-0.4919293041,0.0385914188,3.5269474501
O,0.2896219538,0.0252585401,4.4740979357
N,-1.9105181968,0.0973375904,3.7511239711
H,-2.270462555,0.9115357691,3.2460210231
H,-2.3318346488,-0.6996260364,3.2661205763

RTS(A2, A2d')
0,1
C, $0.003283636,0.0053186271,0.0057505132$
C,-0.0042179012,-0.0189014624,2.1554574894
C, 1.3447795252,-0.0081588776,1.7686149798
N,1.319591413,0.001746754,0.4045254657
H,2.1365986235,-0.0282003432,-0.2098698697
H,-0.2767463187,0.0281765098,-1.0410187585
$\mathrm{N},-0.8208188363,-0.0097321867,1.0307298483$
$\mathrm{N}, 2.5192230954,-0.1150323774,2.4820253838$
H,3.2857523133,0.4442360134,2.1147640088
H,2.3384538942,0.0513661368,3.4695073235
С,-0.5389048245,-0.0034717238,3.501788085

O,-1.7313072633,-0.0408365593,3.7679155297
N,0.4884097484,0.0677923869,4.5311575969
H,0.2826213058,0.9070725709,5.0820191108
H,0.3100812473,-0.7098884983,5.1738986436

## CC-RTS(A1,A2')

0,1
C,1.8665295396,-1.2475322066,0.1015012557
C,-0.0613195833,-0.3108828725,-0.0166079463
C, $0.8640109781,0.7216878246,-0.0454838599$
N,2.0835936579,0.0910103024,0.0286513916
H,2.9877402468,0.5688081115,0.0126232896
H,2.6699026264,-1.9705065273,0.1741403161
$\mathrm{N}, 0.5647436106,-1.532046511,0.0738125676$
$\mathrm{N}, 0.7824087992,2.1245212481,-0.1563398165$
H,0.2424647476,2.396868693,-0.9761603024
Н, $0.3530289146,2.5435629459,0.6664471313$
C,-1.5444906986,-0.1905376088,-0.1188059576
O,-2.1369236667,-0.2754197936,-1.1944149227
N,-2.1689243874,0.0643413309,1.0594389938
H,-1.6668297311,-0.0709960121,1.9290606809
H,-3.1843594548,0.0295160685, 1.0834324796


[^0]:    ${ }^{a}$ Barriers ( $\Delta G_{\text {act }}$ ) in kcal/mol.

[^1]:    ${ }^{a}$ The $\Delta E_{\text {SP }}$ data are determined considering solvent by PCM theory based on the same level gas-phase structures; PCM(MP2(full)/6-311++G**)/MP2 (full)/ 6-311++G**. All other data are based on PCM theory with structure optimization and vibrational analysis at the PCM level; PCM(MP2(full)/6-311++G**) :=

[^2]:    ${ }^{a}$ All data computed at MP2(full)/6-311++G**.
    ${ }^{b}$ Total energies $E$ in hartrees, vibrational zero-point energies VZPE and thermal energies $T E$ in $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, entropies $S$ in $\mathrm{cal} / \mathrm{mol} \mathrm{K}$, number of imaginary frequencies NIF, values of the lowest vibrational frequency $v_{1}$ (imaginary or real), and electric dipole moments $\mu$ in Debye (D).

[^3]:    ${ }^{a}$ All data computed at $\operatorname{PCM}\left(\mathrm{MP} 2(\right.$ full $\left.) / 6-311++\mathrm{G}^{* *}\right)$. Energies $E_{\mathrm{SP}}$ are based on the MP2(full)/6-311++G** optimized structures. All other data are based on the PCM-optimized structures.
    ${ }^{b}$ Total energies $E$ in hartrees, vibrational zero-point energies VZPE and thermal energies $T E$ in $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, entropies $S$ in $\mathrm{cal} / \mathrm{mol} \mathrm{K}$, number of imaginary frequencies NIF, values of the lowest vibrational frequency $\nu_{1}$ (imaginary or real), and electric dipole moments $\mu$ in Debye (D).

[^4]:    RTS(A2, A2d')
    0,1
    C,0.0048896136,0.004314285,0.0092399355
    C,-0.0070210037,-0.0282933082,2.1615738507
    C, $1.3438416474,-0.0098822051,1.7727263116$
    N,1.318293677,0.0027195214,0.410326436
    H,2.1416211063,0.0041881216,-0.2084166256
    Н,-0.272144076,0.0281385207,-1.0397548989
    $\mathrm{N},-0.8222228154,-0.0179446468,1.0338017622$
    $\mathrm{N}, 2.5146708901,-0.1119456149,2.4840281933$
    H,3.3027146059,0.3948388004,2.08100082
    H,2.3554049954,0.0865457316,3.4685090578
    C,-0.540914709,-0.006427336,3.5041241311
    O,-1.7392394993,-0.0403550732,3.7646356964
    $\mathrm{N}, 0.4782235259,0.0678005205,4.5331691141$
    H,0.2733510446,0.9097920848,5.0842129233
    H,0.3053306554,-0.7120024318,5.1780886428

