

What is Hydrogen Bonding?

Worksheet

Hydrogen bonding is an intermolecular force between a hydrogen bonded to a highly electronegative atom (O, N, F) and a lone pair on another molecule. It is much stronger than regular dipole-dipole forces.

Questions

- Hydrogen bonding occurs between
 - H and H
 - H bonded to O/N/F and a lone pair on another atom
 - Any two atoms with a δ^+ and δ^-
 - H and a covalent bond
- How many hydrogen bonds can one water molecule form?
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
- Why is HF a liquid (bp 19.5°C) but HCl is a gas (bp 85°C)?
 - F is heavier
 - HF molecules are larger
 - HF forms hydrogen bonds; HCl does not strongly
 - Cl attracts H more strongly
- Which molecule exhibits the strongest hydrogen bonding?
 - CH_3OH
 - H_2O
 - NH_3
 - HF
- Explain why water has an unusually high boiling point (100°C).
- Why is ammonia (NH_3) a gas at room temperature while water (H_2O) is liquid?
- DNA's double helix is stabilised by hydrogen bonds between base pairs. Why are G-C pairs more stable than A-T pairs?
- Define: Define hydrogen bonding.
- Define: Why is hydrogen bonding strong compared to other intermolecular forces?
- Define: What atoms can form hydrogen bonds?

Answer Key

1. B) H bonded to O/N/F and a lone pair on another atom - Hydrogen bonding requires H bonded to O/N/F (very polar) and a lone pair acceptor.
2. D) 4 - O has 2 lone pairs (acceptor) and 2 H atoms (donor) → up to 4 H-bonds.
3. C) HF forms hydrogen bonds; HCl does not strongly - HF can form strong hydrogen bonds; HCl's dipole-dipole forces are much weaker.
4. D) HF - HF has the most electronegative atom (F), creating the strongest H-bond.
5. Water molecules contain O-H bonds (hydrogen bonding donors) Each O also has 2 lone pairs (hydrogen bonding acceptors) Each water molecule can form up to 4 hydrogen bonds: 2 as donor, 2 as acceptor This extensive hydrogen bonding network requires a lot of energy to break Result: water boils at 100°C, much higher than similar-mass molecules like CH₄ (164°C)
6. Both have hydrogen bonding capability Water: O has 2 lone pairs; each H can donate → up to 4 H-bonds per molecule Ammonia: N has 1 lone pair; each H can donate, but fewer H-bonds form Water's hydrogen bonding network is more extensive than ammonia's Result: water remains liquid; ammonia is a gas (boiling point 33°C)
7. Adenine (A)-Thymine (T): 2 hydrogen bonds Guanine (G)-Cytosine (C): 3 hydrogen bonds More hydrogen bonds = stronger interaction Result: G-C pairs are more stable and require more energy to denature
8. An intermolecular force between H bonded to O/N/F and a lone pair on another molecule.
9. The large electronegativity difference (especially with F) creates a very polar bond.
10. A donor: H bonded to O, N or F. An acceptor: a lone pair on O, N or F.

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