



## Research article

## Synthesis, crystal structure, Hirshfeld surface analysis, energy frameworks and computational studies of Schiff base derivative

K.M. Chandini<sup>a</sup>, M.J. Nagesh Khadri<sup>b</sup>, N. Amoghavarsha<sup>c</sup>, M.A. Sridhar<sup>a,\*</sup>,  
Shaukath Ara Khanum<sup>b</sup><sup>a</sup> Department of Studies in Physics, University of Mysore, Manasagangotri, Mysuru, 570 006, India<sup>b</sup> Department of Chemistry, Yuvaraja's College, University of Mysore, Mysuru, Karnataka, India<sup>c</sup> Department of Physics, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Crystal structure was confirmed by X-ray diffraction analysis and the atomic coordinates were optimized by DFT calculations.
- Hirshfeld surface analysis and energy frameworks calculations were carried out.
- HOMO - LUMO frontier molecular orbitals and molecular electrostatic potential were studied.
- Reduced density gradient (RDG), and topology analyses were performed.
- Natural bond orbital analysis was performed to study intramolecular charge transfer.

## ARTICLE INFO

## Keywords:

Schiff base  
HOMO-LUMO  
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NBO

## ABSTRACT

The compound (E)-ethyl 3-(2-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazono)butanoate (3) was synthesised and crystallized using ethanol as a solvent. The compound was characterized by <sup>1</sup>H NMR, and single crystal X-ray diffraction. The compound crystallizes in the monoclinic crystal system with the space group *P*2<sub>1</sub>/*c*. The intermolecular interactions and the interaction energies responsible for the stabilization of the molecules were determined by Hirshfeld surface analysis and energy framework calculations. The structure of the compound was optimized by Density Functional Theory calculations and HOMO–LUMO energy gap was calculated. The non-covalent interactions were revealed by reduced density gradient analysis. The Mulliken atomic charges and natural atomic charges were calculated by density functional theory calculations. The reactive sites present in the molecule are shown by molecular electrostatic potential map. The inter and intra molecular charge transfer were investigated by NBO analysis.

## 1. Introduction

With uncountable agricultural and industrial operations, the release of pollutants in the form of cation and anions has escalated the threats to the environment, leading to widespread animal and human health issues [1]. The demand for identification of the pollutants (e.g., toxins and metal ions) is considerable, especially in health and environmental sectors [2, 3]. The Schiff base shows incredible results for metal ion detection in this regard [4]. Schiff bases are molecules that feature an imine or azomethine (–CH = N–) functional group. They serve as ligands in diverse metal complexes. Schiff bases are a common family of organic

molecules employed in a variety of domains that include analytical, biological, and inorganic chemistry [5, 6]. Schiff bases can find, and identify aldehydes and ketones, among other things. Preparative use, purification of carbonyl or amino compounds, and shielding of these groups during complex or sensitive processes are a small selection of the applications for Schiff bases [7]. Schiff bases can be employed as pigments/dyes [8], catalysts [9], intermediate compounds, corrosion inhibitors [10], and polymer stabilisers [11] in addition to biological functions [12]. Schiff bases have been successfully employed as highly active and promising sensing materials for a variety of ion sensors including optical, electrochemical, and membrane sensors [13, 14, 15].

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [mas@physics.uni-mysore.ac.in](mailto:mas@physics.uni-mysore.ac.in) (M.A. Sridhar).<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2022.e10047>

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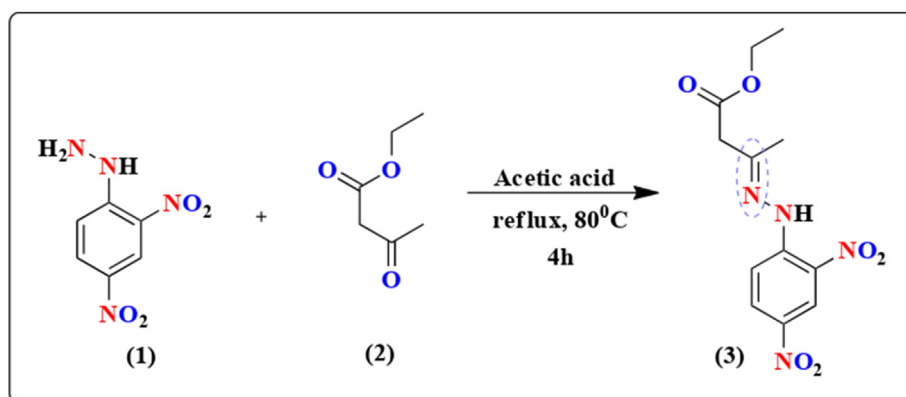


Figure 1. Reaction scheme for the preparation of the compound 3.

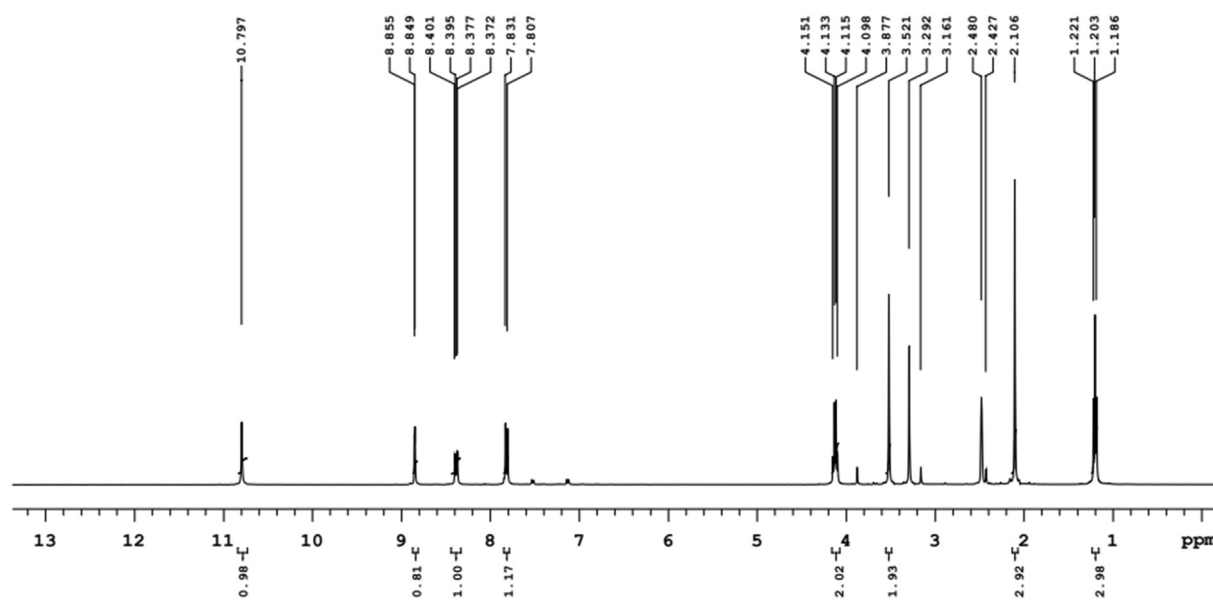


Figure 2. 1 H-NMR of the compound 3.

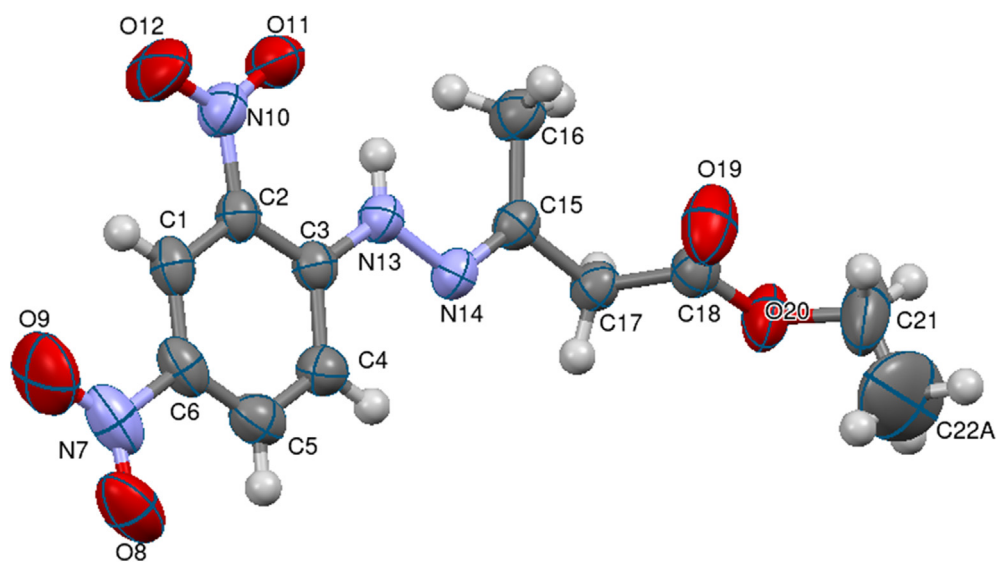


Figure 3. ORTEP of the molecule with thermal ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability.

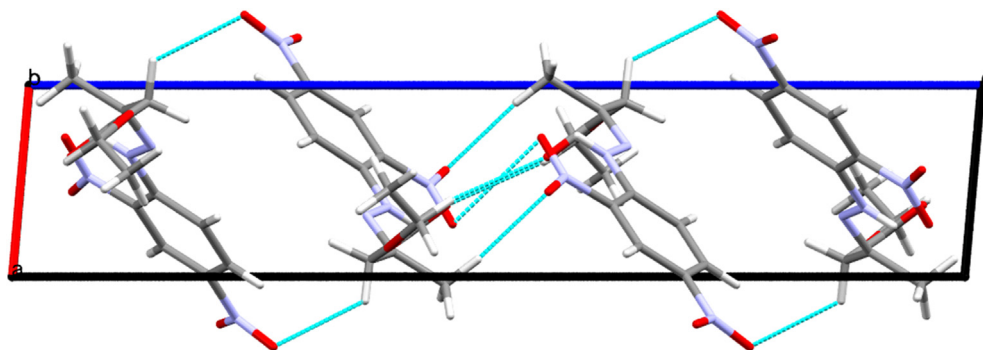


Figure 4. Packing of the molecules viewed down the b-axis.

Table 1. Hydrogen bond geometry.

Atoms	D-H (Å)	H...A (Å)	D-A (Å)	D-H...A (°)
N13-H13...O11	0.86	1.99	2.613(3)	128
N13-H13...N10	0.86	2.63	2.923(3)	102
C4-H4...N14	0.93	2.41	2.734(3)	100
C21-H21B...O19	0.97	2.18	2.652(4)	108

Several Schiff bases are shown to be active antifungal agents [16]. They also exhibit anticancer activity [17]. As a result, the researchers are trying to produce new heterocyclic/aryl Schiff bases for the development of environment friendly technologies [18]. Various approaches, such as  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and elemental analyses, are used to determine and describe the structure of the compound. Single crystal X-ray diffraction method is employed to confirm the 3D structure of the molecule. The computational analysis using DFT calculations are performed to optimize the

Table 2. N-O ... $\pi$  interaction involved in the molecular structure.

N...O	CgJ	O...Cg(Å)	O $_{\perp}$ (Å)	$\gamma$ (°)	N-O...cg (°)	N...cg (Å)	N-O... $\pi$ (°)
N7...O8	Cg1 <sup>i</sup>	3.339(3)	-3.265	12.03	84.27(17)	3.439(3)	5.78
N7...O9	Cg1 <sup>i</sup>	3.881(3)	-3.476	26.42	60.04(17)	3.439(3)	4.12

$i = 1+x, y, z.$

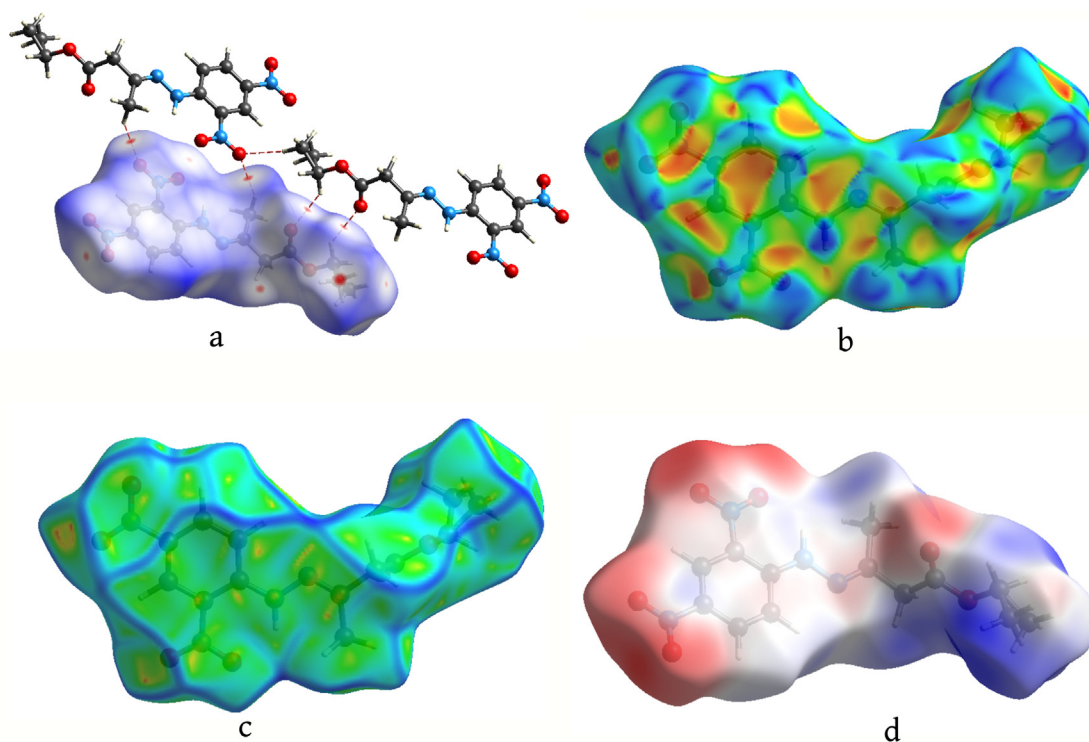


Figure 5. Hirshfeld surface mapped for (a) d norm (b) Shape index (c) Curvedness (d) Electrostatic potential.

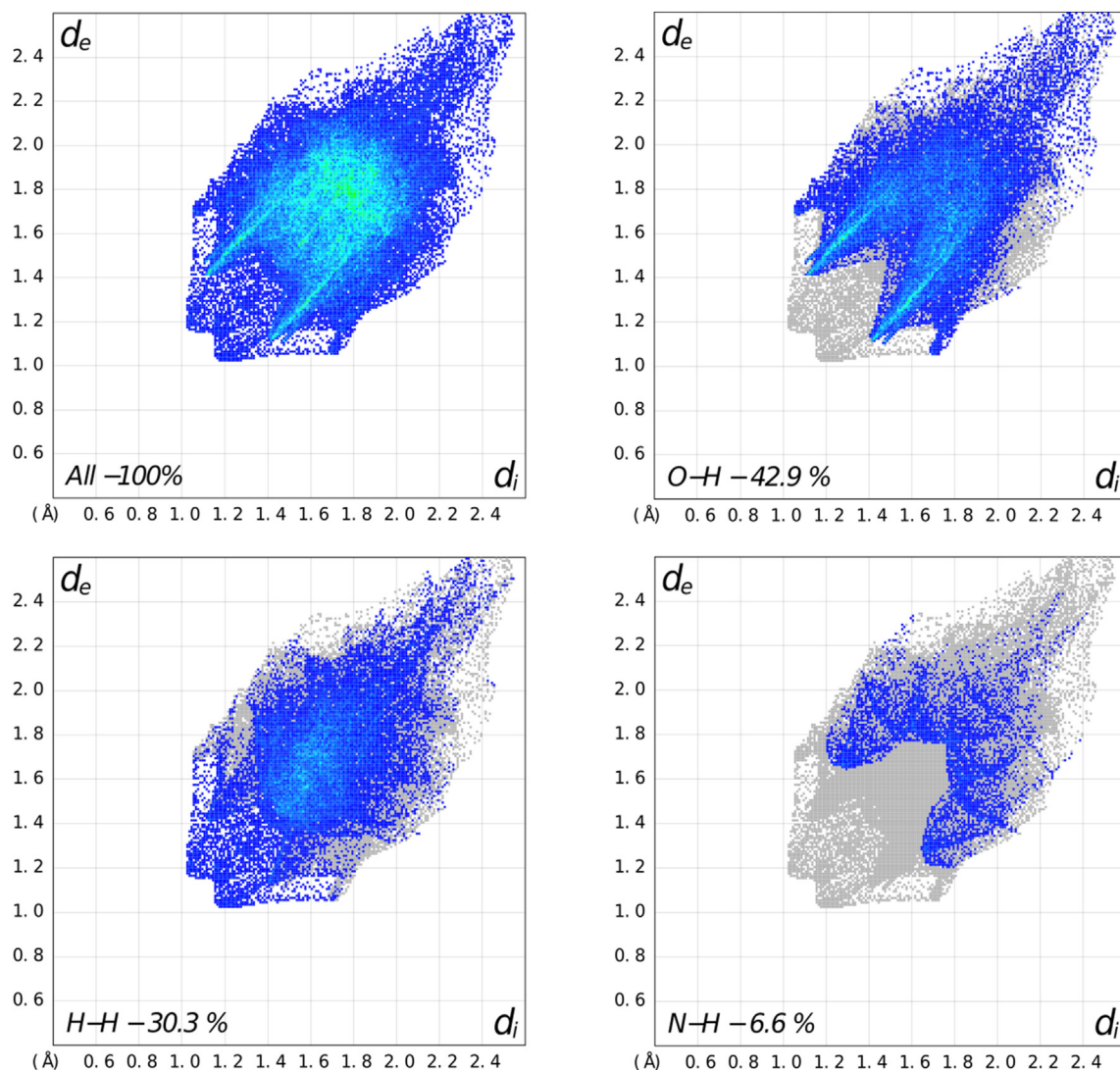


Figure 6. Fingerprint plots showing percentage contribution to the total Hirshfeld surface of compound 3.

Table 3. Percentage contribution to the total Hirshfeld surface area.

Intermolecular Contacts	Contribution (%)
O-H	42.9
H-H	30.3
N-H	6.6
H-C	5.5
C-O	5.0
N-C	3.4
O-O	3.7

structure, to calculate HOMO–LUMO energy gap and other global chemical descriptors [19]. Hirshfeld surface analysis unveils stabilizing intermolecular interactions. The inter and intramolecular charge transfer in the molecule is studied by natural bond analysis.

## 2. Experimental procedure

### 2.1. Materials and methods

Chemicals were procured from Sigma Aldrich and TCI Chemicals. The melting point was determined using a thermometer and a Chemi Line

CL725 Micro Controller-based melting point device. Agilent-NMR spectrophotometer (VNMRS-400 MHz) was employed to record the NMR spectrum in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), while a SynaptG2 spectrophotometer (VG70-70H) was utilized to obtain the mass spectrum.

### 2.2. Synthesis of (E)-ethyl 3-(2-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazono)butanoate

The compound (2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazine (**1**, 0.001 mol) was refluxed along with ethyl 3-oxobutanoate (**2**, 0.001 mol) using ethanol as solvent in the presence of acetic acid for 4 h. The reaction was monitored using TLC with hexane and ethyl acetate (4:1) as solvent system. After the completion of the reaction the reaction mixture was poured on crushed ice. The synthetic procedure is shown in Figure 1.

**(E)-ethyl 3-(2-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazono)butanoate (3):** Yield: 85%. Mp. 111–113 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO): δ 1.20 (t, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.10 (s, 3H, =C–CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.52 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.13 (q, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.92–7.58 (m, 3H, Ar–H), 10.79 (s, 1H, NH) [Figure 2]. LC-MS m/z 311 (M+1). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: C, 46.45; H, 4.55. Found: C, 46.41; H, 4.52 %.

### 2.3. X-ray data collection and reduction

A block shaped crystal of approximate dimensions 0.20×0.25×0.30 mm was chosen for X-ray intensity data collection. Bruker D8 VENTURE diffractometer with PHOTON II detector was employed for data

**Table 4.** Interaction energies of the molecular pairs involved in energy calculation in kJ/mol. R is the distance between molecular centroids in Å and N is the number of molecular pairs involved.

	N	Symmetry operation	R Å	Electron Density	E_ele kJ/mol	E_pol kJ/mol	E_dis kJ/mol	E_rep kJ/mol	E_tot kJ/mol
	1	-x, -y, -z	12.32	B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)	-4.0	-4.4	-20.8	7.0	-21.2
	1	-x, -y, -z	8.78	B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)	-18.5	-5.9	-14.3	9.6	-30.5
	2	x, y, z	4.51	B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)	2.9	-8.2	-79.4	47.4	-42.9
	2	x, y, z	15.49	B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)	-15.6	-1.7	-6.4	2.3	-21.9
	2	-x, y+1/2, -z+1/2	9.17	B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)	-1.2	-3.9	-19.6	8.4	-16.0
	1	-x, -y, -z	11.52	B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)	-13.0	-1.9	-16.0	13.9	-20.5
	1	-x, -y, -z	7.62	B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)	-16.9	-5.2	-20.4	13.2	-31.3
	2	x, y, z	14.82	B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)	-4.6	-1.7	-7.2	17.6	-1.5
	2	-x, y+1/2, -z+1/2	9.85	B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)	-10.5	-6.5	-15.7	10.0	-23.4

collection operated at 296 K using MoK $\alpha$  radiation of wavelength 0.78Å. The data set was processed using SAINT PLUS [20]. The structure was solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least squares method on  $F^2$  using SHELXS and SHELXL programs [21]. All the hydrogen atoms were placed at chemically acceptable positions and refined. 210 parameters were refined with 4174 distinct reflections which converged  $R_1$  to 0.0616 ( $wR_2 = 0.1685$ ) with goodness-of-fit on  $F^2 = 1.017$ . PLATON [22] was used to perform geometrical calculations. Molecular packing diagrams and ORTEP were generated using MERCURY [23].

#### 2.4. Computational details

The molecules in the crystals are linked up by the intermolecular interactions. The interactions are unveiled by Hirshfeld surface analysis by plotting  $d_{norm}$ , shape index, curvedness and electrostatic potential. CrystalExplorer 17.5 [24] software was utilized to analyse Hirshfeld surface, and to generate 2D fingerprint plots. The interactions in the crystal were envisaged on the Hirshfeld surface using red-white-blue colours [25]. 3D energy frameworks and interaction energies between molecular pairs were calculated by CrystalExplorer 17.5 [26].

Density Functional Theory (DFT) calculations using B3LYP, 6-311G (d, p) basis set in gas phase of the compound **3** were performed using Gaussian 09 [27]. The frontier molecular orbitals (HOMO and LUMO) are visualized using Gaussview 6 [28]. The RDG to analyze non-covalent interactions, topology analysis to study intra molecular interactions, analysis of charge distribution by MEP map were performed using Multiwfn 3.8 [29] and visualized using Visual Molecular Dynamics [30].

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Structure analysis

The compound **3** crystallizes in the monoclinic crystal system with the space group  $P2_1/c$ . The cell parameters are  $a = 4.5147(6)$  Å,  $b =$

$14.817(2)$  Å,  $c = 22.461(3)$  Å, and  $\beta = 95.061(5)^\circ$ . Table S1 summarizes the crystal data and structure refinement details. Figures 3 and 4 portray the ORTEP, and packing along the a-axis of the compound **3** respectively. Tables S2, S3, and S4 gives the bond lengths, bond angles and torsion angles of the compound **3**.

The carbon atoms (C1–C2–C3–C4–C5–C6) of dinitrobenzene ring in the compound are  $sp^2$  hybridized. The C1 atom shows maximum deviation from the mean plane with r.m.s value -0.003(2). The bond angle and torsion angle values C2–C3–C4 =  $117.1^\circ$ , C3–C4–C5 =  $121.1^\circ$ , C6–C1–C2–C3 =  $0.3^\circ$ , C3–C4–C5–C6 =  $0.1^\circ$  of the dinitrobenzene ring are signifying nearly planar trigonal geometry. The nitro groups attached to the benzene ring O8–N7–O9 and O11–N10–O12 have bent geometry with the bond angles  $122.0^\circ$  and  $124.1^\circ$ . The torsion angle values O9–N7–C6–C5 ( $-175.3^\circ$ ) and O11–N10–C2–C1 ( $-175.4^\circ$ ) indicate the anti-periplanar conformation of the ring. The ethoxy group is non-planar with the dinitrobenzene ring with a dihedral angle =  $85.65^\circ$ . The molecules are linked by C–H $\cdots\pi$ , N–O $\cdots\pi$ , and intramolecular interactions of the type N–H $\cdots$ O, N–H $\cdots$ N, C–H $\cdots$ N and C–H $\cdots$ O. Hydrogen bond interaction and N–O $\cdots\pi$  geometry are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

#### 3.2. Intermolecular interactions and energies

On the Hirshfeld surface ( $d_{norm}$ ) the red spots depict the short interactions present in the molecule (Figure 5a). The quantitative measures of the Hirshfeld surface are total volume ( $367.14$  Å<sup>3</sup>), area ( $348.54$  Å<sup>2</sup>), globularity (0.711), and asphericity (0.347). The value of globularity is  $< 1.0$  which indicates that the molecular surface is more structured. The structural anisotropy of compound **3** is given by asphericity value [31].

The shape index and curvedness mapped on Hirshfeld surface render information on other weak interactions present in the compound. On the shape index surface (Figure 5b) the C–H $\cdots\pi$  and N–O $\cdots\pi$  interactions are indicated as red regions around the participating atoms. The  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions in the molecule are indicated by flat regions on the curvedness surface (Figure 5c).



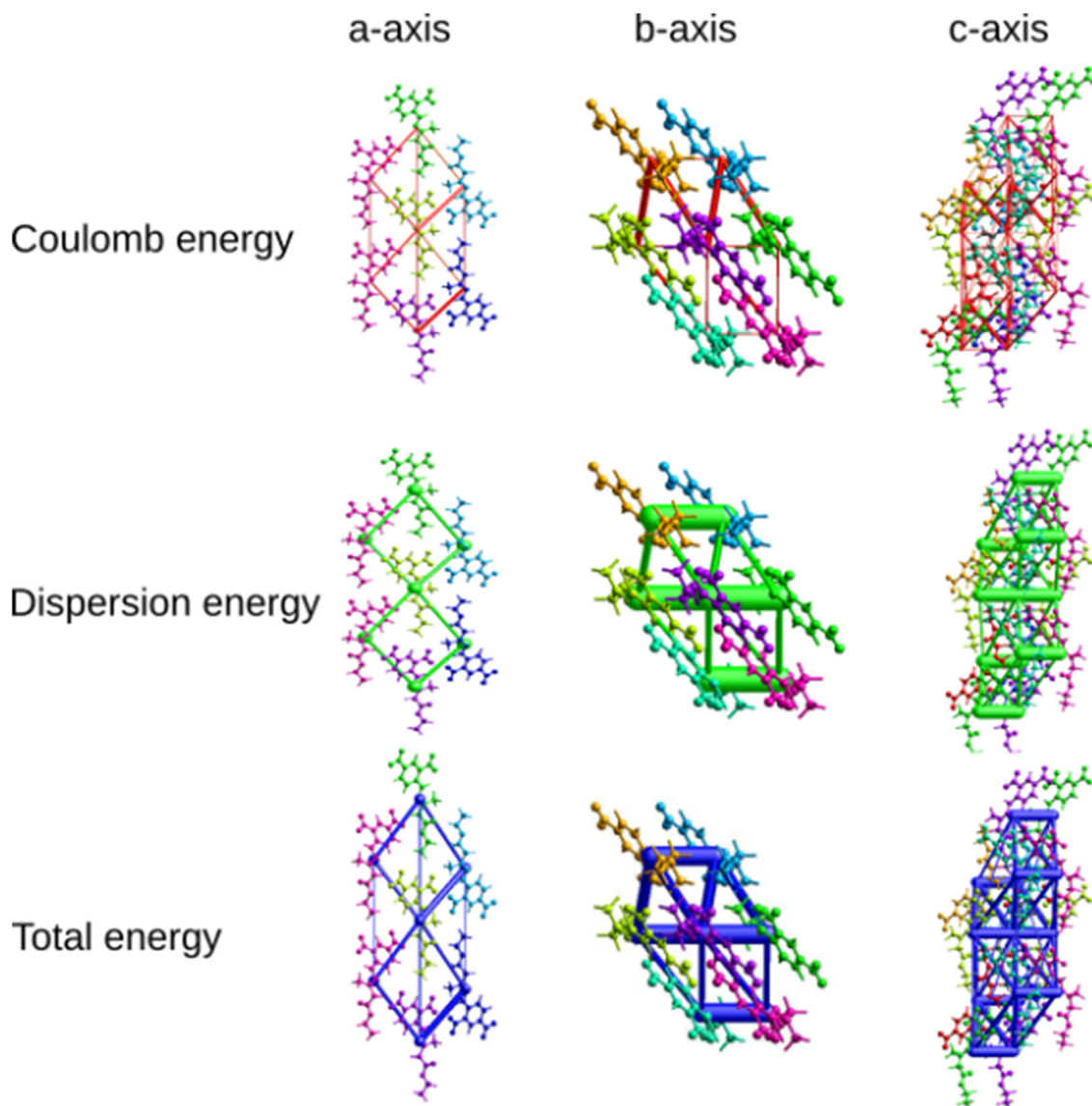


Figure 7. Energy frameworks constructed for Coulomb energy, dispersion energy and total energy.

Table 5. HOMO, LUMO, and quantum chemical descriptor values of the molecule 3.

Parameter	Value
$E_{\text{lumo}}$	-2.990 eV
$E_{\text{homo}}$	-6.637 eV
$\Delta E$	3.647 eV
Ionization potential (I)	6.637 eV
Electron affinity (A)	2.990 eV
Chemical potential $\mu$	-4.813 eV
Chemical Hardness $\eta$	1.823 eV
Electronegativity $\chi$	4.813 eV
Electrophilicity $\omega$	6.353 eV
Global softness $\sigma$	0.548 eV <sup>-1</sup>

The electrophilic and nucleophilic regions are identified by electrostatic potential map plotted on Hirshfeld surface using DFT-B3LYP/6-31G(d, p) hybrid functional. The red coloured regions around oxygen atoms (Figure 5d) show that they are good electron acceptors [32].

Two dimensional fingerprint plots show specific contribution to the total Hirshfeld surface area. The selected decomposed fingerprint plots are shown in Figure 6. The significant contributions are from the contacts O-H (42.9%) and H-H (30.3%). Other specific interactions are listed in Table 3 [33].

Pair wise interaction energies for the molecule 3 within a crystal were calculated. The total interaction energy ( $-209 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) is composed of four components electrostatic ( $-86.03 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ), polarization ( $-29.15 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ), dispersion ( $-174.02 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ), and repulsion energy ( $79.96 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ). The individual components of energy and total energy for the specific molecular pairs are given in Table 4. The molecular pairs involved in the interaction energy calculation are shown in Figure s1. For the molecule under discussion dispersion energy is dominant. The energy frameworks which visualize the strength of interaction energy are shown in Figure 7 for Coulombic energy, dispersion energy, and total energy with red, green, and blue colours respectively. The radii of cylinders connecting the centroid of the molecules represent relative interaction energy strengths [34].

Where  $E_{\text{ele}}$  is the electrostatic energy,  $E_{\text{pol}}$  is the polarization energy,  $E_{\text{dis}}$  is the dispersion energy,  $E_{\text{rep}}$  is the repulsive energy and  $E_{\text{tot}}$  is the total energy.

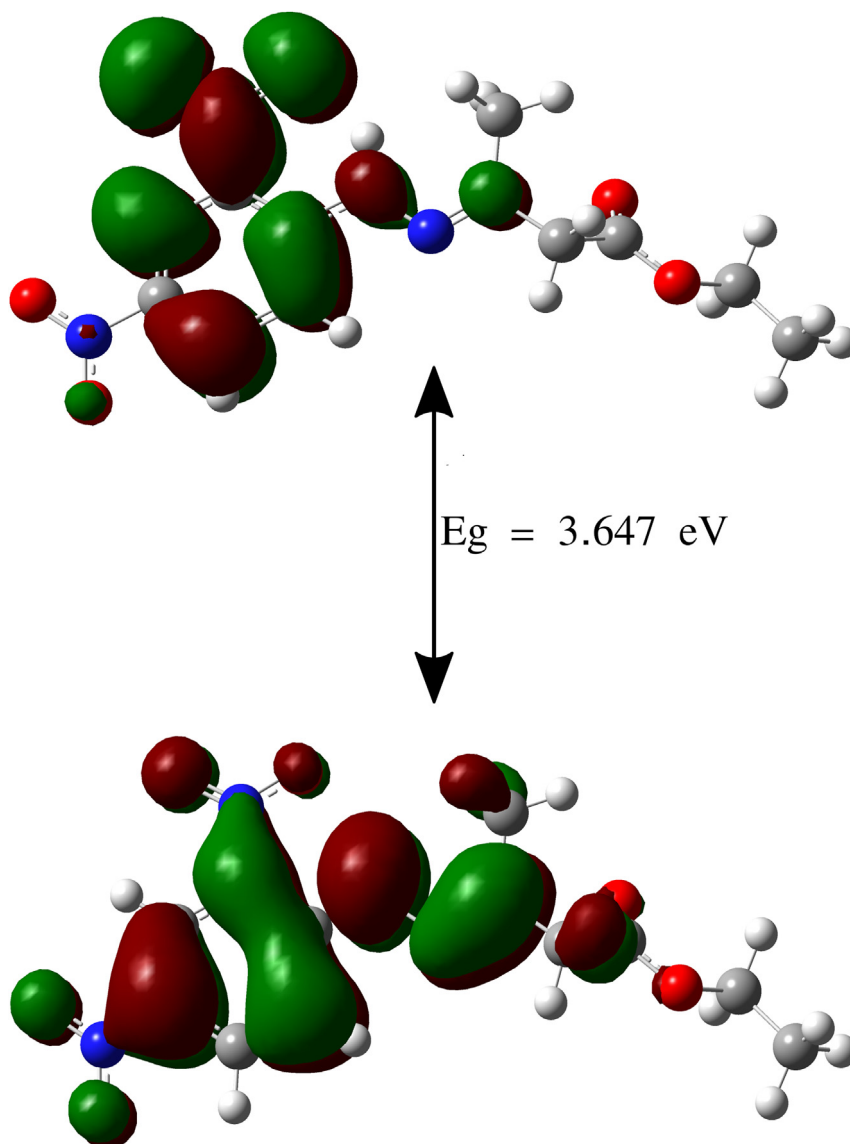


Figure 8. HOMO and LUMO of the molecule 3.

### 3.3. HOMO – LUMO and quantum chemical descriptors

Highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) and lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) play a significant role in the determination of chemical behavior of the molecule. The LUMO is regarded as electrophile, and HOMO as nucleophile which is an electron donor. The energy gap between HOMO and LUMO is significant in determining the chemical stability of the molecule [35]. The HOMO and LUMO values of the molecule 3 and other global chemical descriptors were calculated and are listed in Table 5. A molecule exhibits good chemical reactivity due to the smaller energy gap value. A molecule with high energy gap has good kinetic stability [36]. The energy gap of the molecule 3 is found to be 3.647 eV Figure 8 displays the localization of molecular orbitals in the molecule 3. HOMO and LUMO are localized on the dinitrobenzene ring.

### 3.4. Atomic charge analysis

#### 3.4.1. Mulliken and natural atomic charge

For the molecule 3 both Mulliken charge and natural atomic charge analyses were carried out via DFT methods [37]. Both the charges on each atom are listed in Table 6. All the hydrogen atoms show positive charge since they are electron donors. C18 atom possesses highest

electropositive charge due to the adjacent electronegative atom O19. The atoms O20, O19, C22, C17, C16 possess high negative charge compared to other atoms. The distribution of atomic charges are shown in Figure S2.

#### 3.4.2. Molecular electrostatic potential (MEP)

The molecular electrostatic potential of 3 is visualized in Figure 9. The MEP map allows us to understand the reactive sites, and the relative polarity of the molecule. In molecule 3 the potential ranges from  $-3.3902e + 01$  kcal/mol to  $2.736e + 01$  kcal/mol. The potentials of the molecule are displayed on the map with increasing order using red < yellow < green < blue colours [38]. The red coloured regions encompassing the oxygen atoms corresponding to low potential values infer that those atoms exhibit electrophilic nature. The hydrogen atoms encompassed by extreme blue coloured regions suggest their nucleophilic nature.

### 3.5. Thermodynamic properties

On the basis of vibrational analysis at B3LYP/6-311 G (d, p) the thermodynamic parameters were calculated. The variation of entropy (S), heat capacity (C), and enthalpy (H) with temperature are listed in

**Table 6.** Mulliken and Natural atomic charges of the molecule.

Atoms with their number	Mulliken charge	Natural atomic charge	Atoms with their number	Mulliken charge	Natural atomic charge
C4	-0.11	-0.23	C18	0.37	0.85
C3	0.3	0.22	O19	-0.34	-0.6
C5	-0.03	-0.14	O20	-0.33	-0.56
C6	0.1	0.03	C21	-0.03	-0.02
C1	-0.02	-0.15	C22	-0.3	-0.59
C2	0.1	0.02	H4	0.13	0.24
N7	0.18	0.51	H5	0.14	0.24
O8	-0.27	-0.39	H1	0.17	0.27
O9	-0.27	-0.39	H13	0.28	0.42
N10	0.18	0.51	H16A	0.14	0.22
O11	-0.33	-0.37	H16B	0.16	0.24
O12	-0.25	-0.44	H16C	0.13	0.22
N13	-0.39	-0.38	H17A	0.16	0.24
N14	-0.17	-0.39	H17B	0.16	0.23
C15	0.11	0.31	H21A	0.13	0.18
C16	-0.32	-0.66	H21B	0.13	0.18
C17	-0.26	-0.51	H22A	0.12	0.2
H22C	0.12	0.21			

Table 7 and shown in Figure 10. One can observe that the thermodynamic parameters increase with temperature. Total energy, specific heat at constant volume, entropy due to vibration, rotation, translation and zero point vibrational energy are calculated and are listed in Table 8. The correlation equations between entropy (S), heat capacity ( $C_p$ ), and enthalpy (H) with temperature obtained by quadratic fitting [39] are

$$C_p = -0.00045T^2 + 1.0879T + 50.239 \quad (R^2 = 0.999)$$

$$H = 0.0003 T^2 + 0.16537 T - 13.7959 \quad (R^2 = 0.999)$$

$$S = -0.00036T^2 + 1.35166T + 303.66 \quad (R^2 = 0.999).$$

### 3.6. Non-covalent interactions (NCI)

The structure of the molecule is influenced by covalent, noncovalent, and electrostatic interactions. The NCI is revealed by Reduced Density

Gradient analysis (RDG). NCI is visualized by gradient isosurfaces coloured according to the strength of the interaction.  $\text{Sign}(\lambda_2)\rho$  values indicate the type of bonding— where large negative values specify hydrogen bonding, while large positive values specify repulsive interactions. The weak van der Waals interactions are specified by the values of  $\text{sign}(\lambda_2)\rho$  near zero [40]. The scattered plot and isosurfaces of the molecule **3** are shown in Figure 11. The red colored isosurface is a clear indication of the steric repulsion present in the benzene ring with  $\text{sign}(\lambda_2)\rho = 0.02$ . The molecule possesses strong hydrogen bond (N–H...O) shown as blue isosurface with  $\text{sign}(\lambda_2)\rho$  value nearly -0.04. All the green isosurfaces depict the weak van der Waals interactions in the molecule **3** [41].

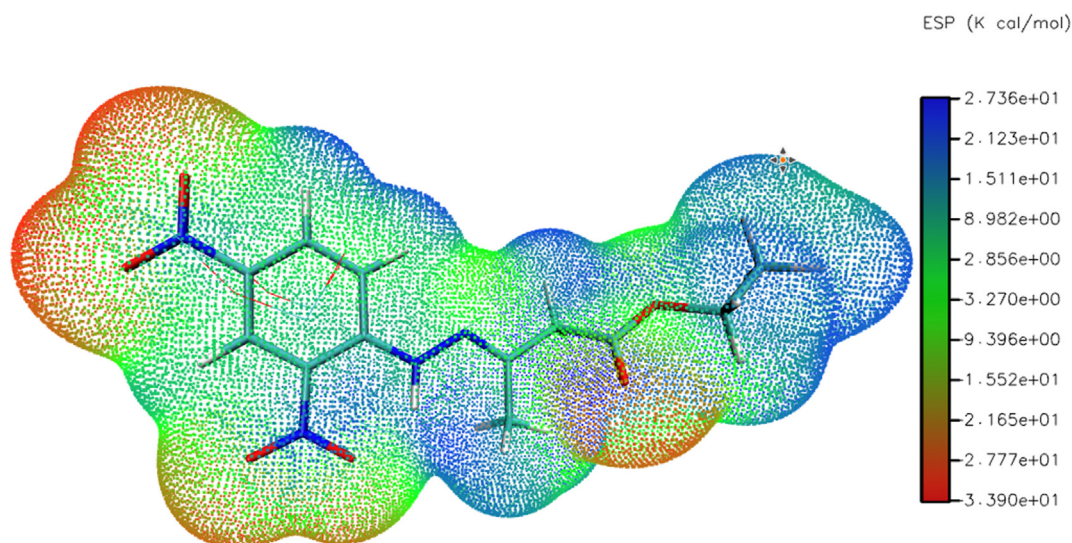
### 3.7. Topology analysis

Topological analysis of atoms in the molecule was performed to look into the intra-molecular interactions in the molecule **3**. According to Atoms in Molecule (AIM) analysis the presence of bond critical path (BCP) ensures that the bond between the atoms. BCP generated for the molecule **3** is shown in Figure 12. The BCP corresponding to N13–H13...O11 validates the presence of intramolecular interaction observed in X-ray diffraction study. The total electron density  $\rho(r)$  and Laplacian ( $\nabla^2\rho$ ) describe the nature of bonds. Total electron density is given by the expression,

$$\frac{1}{4}\nabla^2\rho(r) = G(r) + V(r),$$

**Table 7.** Thermodynamic functions at different temperature for the molecule **3**.

Temperature (K)	S (J/mol K)	C (J/mol K)	H (kJ/mol)
100	427.23	158.8	10.26
200	564.39	246.08	30.55
298.15	678.5	331.1	58.87
300	680.55	332.684	59.49
400	787.698	414.65	96.93
500	888.033	485.08	142.03
600	981.757	542.796	193.52
700	1069.08	589.715	250.22
800	1150.41	628.18	311.18
900	1226.3	660.080	375.64
1000	1297.27	686.82	443.03

**Figure 9.** MEP map of the molecule **3**.



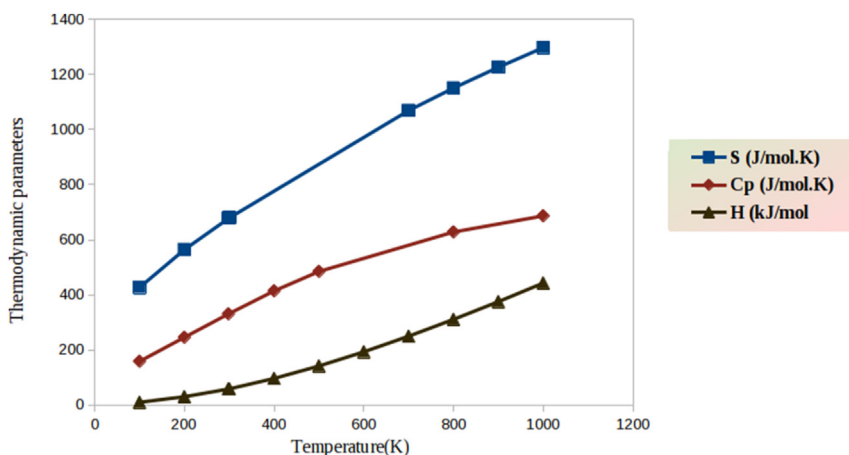


Figure 10. Variation of the thermodynamic parameters with temperature.

Table 8. Theoretically computed thermodynamic parameters of the molecule 3.

Parameters	Values
Zero point vibrational energy (kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> )	169.250
	Total      Translational      Rotational      Vibrational
Energy (k cal mol <sup>-1</sup> )	182.729      0.889      0.889      180.952
Specific heat at constant volume (cal mol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup> )	77.146      2.981      2.981      71.185
Entropy (cal mol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup> )	162.138      43.091      35.499      83.548

where  $G(r)$  and  $V(r)$  are Lagrangian kinetic energy and potential energy densities at critical points, respectively. The BCP with  $\nabla^2\rho(r_{\text{BCP}}) = 0.1354$  and  $G(r_{\text{BCP}})$  (0.032) greater than  $V(r_{\text{BCP}})$  ( $-0.0311$ ) indicates the existence of hydrogen bond. The values  $\nabla^2\rho(r)_{\text{BCP}} > 0$  and  $G(r_{\text{BCP}}) + V(r_{\text{BCP}}) > 0$  indicate that the bond is a weak hydrogen bond. Ratio of  $-G(r_{\text{BCP}})/V(r_{\text{BCP}}) = 1.045$  indicates that the hydrogen bond has a non-covalent nature [42].

### 3.8. Natural bond analysis

Natural bond orbital (NBO) analysis is an efficient method to understand the inter and intramolecular interactions. The delocalization of electron density within the molecule and intramolecular charge transfer are investigated from NBO analysis. Donor-acceptor interactions in the NBO of the molecule 3 were carried out with the second order perturbation theory analysis in the Fock matrix. Interaction among atoms and their charge transfer is investigated. Table 9 lists the second-order perturbation energies of the molecule 3. The strong interactions are through the atoms having higher stabilization energy  $E^{(2)}$  [43]. In this molecule, maximum stabilization energy is found in the bond LP (3) O8 -  $\pi^*$  (N7 - O9).

## 5. Conclusion

Compound 3 is stabilized by C-H... $\pi$ , N-O... $\pi$ , N-H...O, N-H...N, C-H...N and C-H...O type interactions in crystalline phase. The interactions present in the molecule are unveiled by Hirshfeld surface

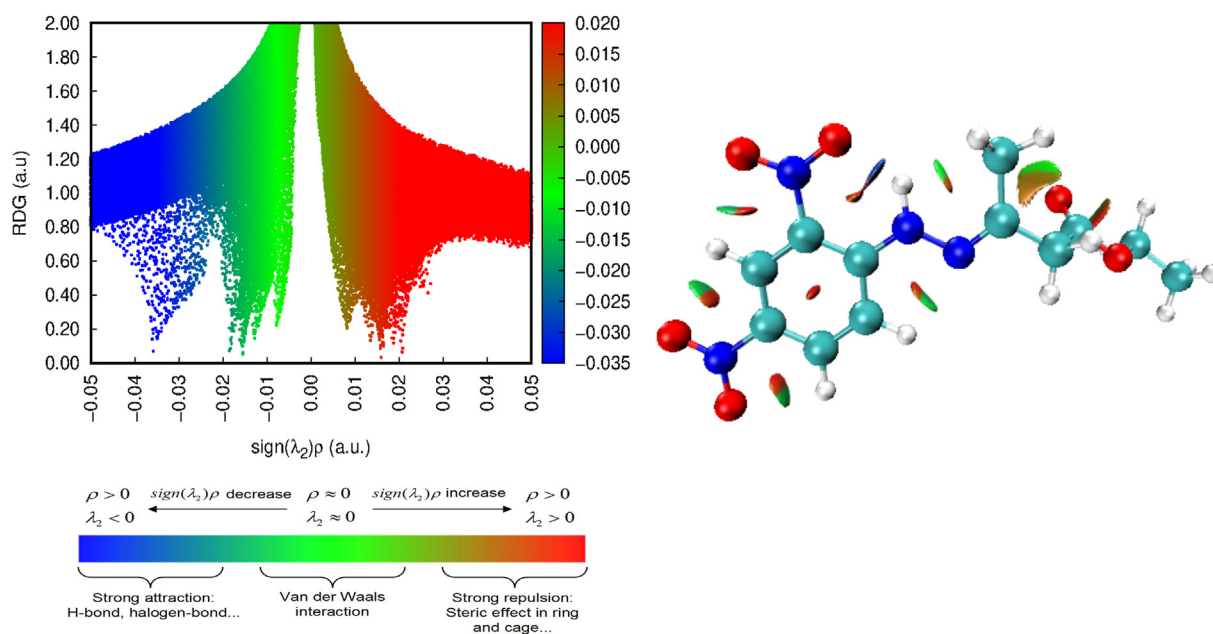


Figure 11. NCI and scattered plot of the molecule 3.

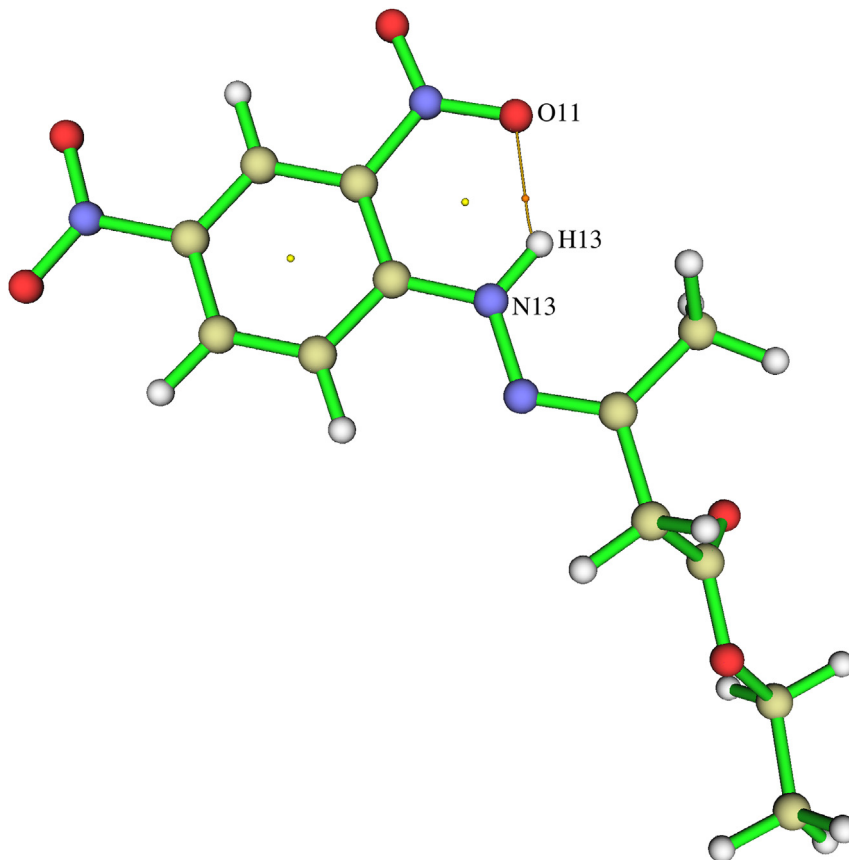


Figure 12. Bond critical path generated (yellow line) for the molecule 3.

Table 9. Selected second-order perturbation energies of the molecule 3.

Donor	Occupancy	Acceptor	Occupancy	$E^{(2)}$ kcal/mol	$E(j)-E(i)$ a.u.	$F(i, j)$ a.u.
LP (3) O8	1.45	$\pi^*$ (N7–O9)	0.64	162.72	0.14	0.14
$\pi^*$ (C2–C6)	0.49	$\pi^*$ (C4–C5)	0.34	134.4	0.03	0.08
LP (3) O11	1.51	$\pi^*$ (N1–O12)	0.63	133.7	0.15	0.13
$\pi^*$ (C2–C6)	0.49	$\pi^*$ (C1–C3)	0.24	85.12	0.03	0.08
LP (1) N13	1.62	$\pi^*$ (C2–C6)	0.49	55.7	0.26	0.11
LP (2) O25	1.79	$\pi^*$ (C21–O24)	0.22	48.79	0.34	0.12
$\pi$ (C2–C6)	1.59	$\pi^*$ (N10–O12)	0.63	33.63	0.15	0.07
LP (2) O24	1.85	$\sigma^*$ (C21–O25)	0.1	31.2	0.65	0.13
$\pi$ (C2–C6)	1.59	$\pi^*$ (C4–C5)	0.34	26.52	0.3	0.08
LP (1) N13	1.62	$\pi^*$ (N14–C15)	0.17	24.93	0.29	0.08
$\pi$ (C4–C5)	1.68	$\pi^*$ (N7–O9)	0.64	24.55	0.16	0.06
$\pi$ (C1–C3)	1.72	$\pi^*$ (C2–C6)	0.49	23.54	0.26	0.07
$\pi$ (C4–C5)	1.68	$\pi^*$ (C1–C3)	0.24	21.65	0.3	0.07
$\pi^*$ (N10–O12)	0.05	$\pi^*$ (C2–C6)	0.49	20.37	0.12	0.06
LP (2) O24	1.85	$\sigma^*$ (C20–C21)	0.07	19.89	0.63	0.1
LP (2) O12	1.89	$\sigma^*$ (N10–O11)	0.06	19.63	0.69	0.11
LP (2) O9	1.9	$\sigma^*$ (N7–O8)	0.06	18.82	0.72	0.11
LP (2) O11	1.9	$\sigma^*$ (N10–O12)	0.05	18.6	0.76	0.11
LP (2) O8	1.9	$\sigma^*$ (N7–O9)	0.06	18.58	0.73	0.11
$\pi^*$ (N7–O9)	0.64	$\pi^*$ (C4–C5)	0.34	17.41	0.14	0.06
$\pi$ (C1–C3)	1.72	$\pi^*$ (C4–C5)	0.34	15.35	0.29	0.06
LP (2) O12	1.89	$\sigma^*$ (C6–N10)	0.1	13.93	0.58	0.08
$\pi$ (C4–C5)	1.68	$\pi^*$ (C2–C6)	0.49	13.91	0.27	0.06
LP (2) O9	1.9	$\sigma^*$ (C4–N7)	0.11	13.51	0.57	0.08
LP (2) O8	1.9	$\sigma^*$ (C4–N7)	0.11	13.12	0.57	0.08
$\pi$ (N7–O9)	1.99	LP (3) O8	1.45	12.18	0.18	0.08
$\pi$ (C2–C6)	1.59	$\pi^*$ (C1–C3)	0.24	11.19	0.31	0.06

$E^{(2)}$  is the energy of stabilization.

$E(j)-E(i)$  is the energy difference between donor and acceptor  $i$  and  $j$  NBO orbitals.

$F(i, j)$  is the Fock matrix element between  $i$  and  $j$  NBO orbitals.

analysis, RDG and topology analyses. The 3D energy framework calculation signifies that the dispersion energy has major contribution towards total interaction energy. The HOMO–LUMO energy gap of the molecule **3** is found to be 3.647 eV. The MEP map shows that the oxygen atoms present in the molecule exhibit electrophilic nature and hydrogen atoms are nucleophiles. This is substantiated by the Mulliken and natural atomic charge analyses with oxygen atoms having negative charges and hydrogen atoms having positive charges.

## Declarations

### Author contribution statement

Chandini K.M., Sridhar M.A.: Analyzed and interpreted the data; Wrote the paper.

Nagesh Khadri M. J.: Performed the experiments; Wrote the paper.

Amoghavarsha N: Performed the experiments.

Shaukath Ara Khanum: Conceived and designed the experiments; Wrote the paper.

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### Data availability statement

Data associated with this study has been deposited at Chemical Crystallographic Data Centre under the accession number 2151097.

### Declaration of interest's statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

### Additional information

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