

# Density Functional Response Calculations of Dispersion Coefficients $C_6$ and $C_9$ of Closed- and Open-shell Systems

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**Abstract:** Dipole polarizabilities and  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  dispersion coefficients are computed for closed- and open-shell atoms and molecules, using dynamic (time-dependent) density functional (TD-DFT) linear response theory as implemented in the response module of the NWChem quantum chemistry package. The response module is capable of accurate calculations of these properties, based on spin-restricted and spin-unrestricted formalisms. The calculated static polarizabilities and dispersion coefficients are compared to available experimental and other theoretical data. The behavior of the dynamic polarizability at imaginary frequencies is analyzed for differently sized closed- and open-shell systems. An interpolation method enforcing the monotonic decrease of the polarizability with increasing imaginary frequency is beneficial for the integration used to obtain  $C_6$  and  $C_9$ . Scaling of the TD-DFT data by ratios of the static polarizability, which can be calculated with a variety of methods, including highly accurate theories, may be used as a leading-order correction.

## 1 Introduction

Interactions between atoms or molecules outside of the orbital overlap range are governed by van der Waals (vdW) forces. Typically, one distinguishes long-range electrostatic vs. dispersion interactions, with the latter being caused by the dynamic electron correlation. Dispersion interactions are mediated by instantaneous multipole moments in one subsystem inducing instantaneous multipole moments in another subsystem. These interactions are extremely important in chemical, physical and biological systems. With distance  $R_{AB}$  between two species (subsystems), A and B, the asymptotic expansion of the nonrelativistic two-body dispersion interaction is in leading order  $C_6/R_{AB}^6$ , with relativistic and higher multipole order corrections involving higher powers of  $1/R$ .  $C_6$  is the coefficient that quantifies the dipole-dipole interactions. There is a corresponding  $C_9/(R_{AB}^3 R_{BC}^3 R_{CA}^3)$  term parametrizing the three-body dipole interactions among subsystems A, B, and C. Many studies of  $C_6$  coefficients have been reported for rare gas atoms, alkali-atoms, alkali-metal clusters, diatomic

molecules, alkanes, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and fullerenes.<sup>1–19</sup> Nevertheless, an accurate determination of dispersion coefficients such as  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  is not simple in general, and far from routine for open-shell systems.

A variety theoretical approaches, such as density functional theory (DFT),<sup>20,21</sup> linear-response time-dependent DFT (TD-DFT),<sup>1,7,12,14,19,22–24</sup> the DFT-based local response dispersion (LRD) method,<sup>25</sup> time-dependent Hartree-Fock (TDHF),<sup>12,17,26</sup> Møller-Plesset perturbation theory (MPPT),<sup>27–29</sup> perturbation theory,<sup>5,30–33</sup> symmetry-adapted perturbation theory (SAPT),<sup>34–38</sup> other correlated wavefunction approaches<sup>39,40</sup> such as coupled cluster (CC) theory<sup>17,29,41–45</sup> and the algebraic diagrammatic construction (ADC),<sup>17</sup> and semi-empirical approximations,<sup>46–54</sup> have been harnessed to calculate polarizabilities and dispersion coefficients. Static polarizabilities of closed- and selected open-shell atoms and small molecules may be computed accurately by quantum chemical techniques.<sup>19,23,25,55</sup> Treating frequency-dependent response is in principle straightforward, but requires additional method development effort. Molecules that are not small and have unpaired electrons remain a challenge in the treatment of response properties in general, including dispersion interactions. Consequently, few reports of dispersion coefficient calculations of such systems—which may be highly relevant in chemistry and materials science—are yet available.

One of us has previously developed a TDDFT dynamic linear response module in the NWChem program,<sup>56–58</sup> which allows for massively parallelized computations of large systems. The response module is capable of calculating dynamic polarizabilities at complex frequencies, to obtain non-singular response near or at resonances.<sup>59</sup> The module was subsequently extended to accommodate spin-unrestricted calculations,<sup>60</sup> which therefore allows for a uniform treatment of closed- and open-shell systems, thus expanding the application range of TDDFT response methodology to chemical, physical and biological systems without or with unpaired spins. Herein, we report calculations of dipole-polarizabilities at purely imaginary frequencies, to determine dispersion coefficients  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  for open- and closed-shell systems by integration of polarizability products along the imaginary frequency axis (see Section 2). Static polarizability benchmark data are also provided. The integration to obtain  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  coefficients is commonly done on a numerical grid of imaginary frequencies  $i\omega$  (with  $\omega$  being real). The polarizability tends to be rapidly decreasing with increasing  $i\omega$ , and monotonic. We show that the integration to obtain dispersion coefficients can be facilitated by using a cubic interpolation scheme that enforces the monotonic behavior. In the present study, we first test small open- and closed-shell species, then proceed with calculations for larger molecules. The results are rather satisfactory for all of the different systems that were studied.

## 2 Theoretical and Computational Details

Let the isotropic dipole polarizability of entity (subsystem) A be denoted by  $\alpha^A$ . The isotropic polarizability is the average of the principal components of the rank-2 polarizability tensor. For the present study, the dispersion coefficient  $C_6(A,B)$  for the rotationally averaged interaction between entity A and B was calculated via the Casimir-Polder expression, in terms of the dynamic (frequency-dependent) polarizability at imaginary frequencies<sup>61,62</sup> Hartree atomic units (au) are used unless noted otherwise. The  $C_6$  coefficient is given as

$$C_6(A,B) = \frac{3}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \alpha^A(i\omega) \alpha^B(i\omega) d\omega \quad (1)$$

Here,  $\omega$  is a real circular frequency, assumed to be positive, such that the integration in the previous equation is along the positive imaginary axis. At purely imaginary frequencies, the polarizability is purely real. Similar to  $C_6$ , the three-body coefficient  $C_9(A,B,C)$ , which is useful in the modeling of non-additive effects, can be obtained via

$$C_9(A,B,C) = \frac{3}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \alpha^A(i\omega) \alpha^B(i\omega) \alpha^C(i\omega) d\omega. \quad (2)$$

The isotropic part of the polarizability at  $\omega = 0$  and nonzero imaginary frequencies  $i\omega$  for all systems was computed by using the Kohn-Sham (KS) density functional theory (DFT) dynamic linear response module of the NWChem package<sup>56-58</sup> as released on GitHub.<sup>63</sup> The code allows for response calculations with complex frequencies, and includes recent minor changes to allow polarizability calculations with frequencies that are purely imaginary. The Coulomb attenuation method with the Becke three parameter Lee-Yang-Parr (CAM-B3LYP)<sup>64</sup> hybrid functional, and the Sadlej polarized valence triple zeta (pVTZ)<sup>65</sup> Gaussian-type orbital (GTO) basis set, were employed for most calculations, except where noted otherwise. This functional and basis combination were previously reported to produce accurate static polarizabilities.<sup>66</sup> Test calculations with several other functionals and basis sets were performed for alkali-metal atoms and selected diatomic molecules. Basis sets were obtained from the basis set exchange.<sup>67,68</sup> A response convergence criterion of  $10^{-7}$  was chosen, with the only exception of  $C_{60}$  fullerene where a criterion of  $10^{-6}$  was used because of elevated numerical noise related to near linear dependencies with the used basis set. We note that the calculations for the alkali-metal atoms and small molecules required only very modest computational resources. The computational cost of course increases with the size of the system, with the same overall scaling in the code as the utilized (hybrid) Kohn-Sham DFT

approximations, with the  $C_{60}$  fullerene being the most demanding system in this study. In part thanks to the favorable scaling on NWChem on parallel architectures, the calculations on the larger systems remain accessible on a modern multi-core processor system.

There are different keywords to specify the perturbation in the input for the NWChem response module. One input value is for the real frequency of the perturbing field. The other input parameter is for a ‘damping’ or de-phasing constant that broadens the excited states in the response calculations and plays an analogous role to the friction damping of a classical oscillator. When both a frequency and de-phasing constant are provided, the response calculation effectively runs with a complex perturbing frequency, with the imaginary part of the frequency being equal to the de-phasing constant. Thus, electric-field perturbation calculations with purely imaginary frequencies were achieved by setting the real frequency to zero and selecting nonzero damping values  $\omega$  representing  $i\omega$  in the previous equations. The electric dipole moment response then gave  $\alpha(i\omega)$ .

For most calculations,  $\omega$  ranged from 0 to 81.92 au on a 15-point frequency grid, with the nonzero frequencies corresponding to a logarithmic grid of 0.01 au times  $2^n$  with  $n = 0$  to 13. Test calculations for the K atom also used a larger logarithmic grid of 0.00001 au times  $1.2^n$  with  $n = 0$  to 101, to test grid cut-off errors and different interpolations (vide infra). The monotonic cubic splines Steffen interpolation<sup>69</sup> was used as implemented in the `CubicMonotonicInterpolation` function available in *Mathematica*<sup>70</sup> v. 13 via the Wolfram Function Repository. We additionally verified that this function produces the same results as a *Mathematica* code for the Steffen interpolation that can be found on the StackExchange web site.<sup>71</sup> For comparison, a 12-point Gauss-Legendre quadrature, as applied in several of the works referenced herein,<sup>12,17,43</sup> was also used in the integration tests. Accordingly, the polarizability was calculated for frequencies  $i\omega = i\omega_0(1 - t)/(1 + t)$ , with  $\omega_0 = 0.3$  au and discrete values of  $t \in [-1, 1]$  and associated weights generated for the requested number (12) of Gauss-Legendre quadrature points. This integration was deemed to be reliable in the cited references, ‘well beyond [...] three-digit accuracy’.<sup>17</sup>

For small molecules, we used the same experimental ground state structural data as Reference 28. In particular, the bonds lengths for diatomic molecules<sup>72</sup> were as follows (in Å):  $H_2$ : 0.741 Å.  $N_2$ : 1.098. CN: 1.172. CO: 1.128. NO: 1.151.  $O_2$ : 1.208. BeH: 1.343. CaH: 2.002. MgH: 1.731.  $Li_2$ : 2.673.  $Na_2$ : 3.079.  $K_2$ : 3.905 Å. An experimental X-ray diffraction structure was used for the radical cation bicarbazole (BCz)<sup>73</sup> derivative. Structures for other systems were optimized with the PBE0<sup>74</sup> hybrid functional and the def2-SV(P) basis<sup>75,76</sup> using Gaussian (G16).<sup>77</sup>

### 3 Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Polarizabilities for alkali-metal atoms and some diatomic molecules

We first examine the static polarizabilities of the alkali-metal atoms Li, Na and K, as well as the diatomic molecules  $\text{H}_2$ ,  $\text{N}_2$  and  $\text{CO}$ , prior to proceeding with calculations for larger systems. We reiterate that the module for linear response theory calculations in NWChem can be employed in spin-restricted as well as in spin-unrestricted fashion. Therefore, the alkali-metal atoms Li, Na and K are good examples for testing this functionality.

For accurate calculations of polarizabilities, especially for small systems, large basis sets with polarization and diffuse functions are necessary. The exchange-correlation (XC) functional and the associated response kernel also play an important role, in property calculations in general and for polarizabilities in particular. Thus, in order to determine the most accurate method to calculate the static polarizabilities, an extensive test of different functionals and basis sets was performed. The results are collected in Table S1 in the Supporting Information (SI). These calculations identified CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ as a suitable choice. As far as functionals with range-separated exchange and a full long-range correction (LC) are concerned, some of the results obtained with LC functionals also agree well with experiments. For example, LC-PBE and LC-PBE0 results agree reasonably well with the experimental polarizability of the Li atom (calc.  $\sim 153$ - $160$  atomic units (au) vs. expt.  $164 \pm 3.0$  au<sup>78</sup>). Results from the similar LC- $\omega$ PBE and LC- $\omega$ PBE0 functionals also produce results close to the experimental polarizability (Li:  $160$ - $165$  au for LC- $\omega$ PBE and  $156$ - $160$  au for LC- $\omega$ PBE0). The range-separation parameter for the LC functionals was also non-empirically tuned for Li, as described in Reference<sup>79</sup> and works cited therein; however, no dramatic impact on the resulting polarizability was found. We note that for Li the Sadlej basis is the one that works best in conjunction with the LC functionals. For Na, the LC functionals also provide results within the experimental range (for example,  $161$ - $165$  au from LC-PBE vs. an expt. value of  $159.2 \pm 3.4$ ).<sup>78</sup> However, the calculated static polarizabilities for K are somewhat overestimated with the LC functionals. We therefore decided to proceed with the CAM-B3LYP functional, also because of its expected better performance for larger systems.

Table 1 collects the calculated static polarizabilities from the CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ calculations for the alkali-metal atoms Li, Na and K, and the diatomic molecules  $\text{H}_2$ ,  $\text{N}_2$  and  $\text{CO}$ . Available experimental data,<sup>78,80,81</sup> and results from other other theoretical works<sup>1,3-5,7,28</sup> are also provided. In general, the CAM-B3LYP functional with the Sadlej family of basis sets is found to produce accurate results when they are compared with experiments, both here and in the literature.<sup>66</sup> Comparisons with other theoretical data reported in the literature<sup>1,7,28</sup>

shows that our calculated static polarizabilities for K, H<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub> and CO agree as well or better with experiments. Our calculated polarizabilities for the alkali-metal atoms Li and Na are below the experimental references. Some of the functional and basis set combinations that give closer results to the experiment for Li and Na (Table S1) strongly overestimate the polarizability of K, which highlights the challenge of calculating response properties with TDDFT across a variety of systems. The calculation results are overall reasonable, especially when taking into account the good performance of the CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ calculations for K and the diatomic molecules.

### 3.2 Polarizability integration along the imaginary frequency axis

Calculations for the K atom were used to test the requirements for obtaining accurate dispersion coefficients from numerical integration of  $\alpha(i\omega)$ . Plots of the polarizability along the imaginary frequency axis are shown in Figure 1. A large, finely spaced logarithmic grid (see Section 2 for details) was compared to the 15-point grid with ca. 80 au cutoff used for most of the calculations (hereafter referred to as the ‘standard’ grid). The data are representative of  $\alpha(i\omega)$  for all systems in our study: From its static limit,  $\alpha(i\omega)$  drops initially somewhat Gaussian-like, then goes through an inflection point and drops more slowly for larger fre-

Table 1: Experimental and computational static polarizabilities (in atomic units) of some alkali-metal atoms and diatomic molecules, as well as a comparison with other studies is represented.

Source	Li	Na	K	H <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	CO
Expt.	$164 \pm 3.0^{[a]}$	$159.2 \pm 3.4^{[a]}$	$292.8 \pm 6.1^{[a]}$	$5.4^{[b]}$	$11.7^{[b]}$	$13.1^{[c]}$
This work <sup>[d]</sup>	148.8	146.6	290.3	5.4	11.8	13.1
Ref. [4] <sup>[e]</sup>	162.97	157.65	276.89			
Ref. [28] <sup>[f]</sup>	165	166.9	285.2			
Ref. [5] <sup>[g]</sup>	163.7	162.2	286.1	6.7		
Ref. [3] <sup>[h]</sup>	163.7	162.4	287.1			
Ref. [54] <sup>[i]</sup>	164.3	162.8	290.0			
Ref. [1] <sup>[j]</sup>				6.1	12.3	13.7
Ref. [7] <sup>[k]</sup>				5.7	11.9	13.1

<sup>[a]</sup>Reference 78. <sup>[b]</sup>Reference 80. <sup>[c]</sup>Reference 81. <sup>[d]</sup>CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ. <sup>[e]</sup> TDDFT-based complete sum-over-states with Slater-type orbital (STO) basis. <sup>[f]</sup> Møller-Plesset perturbation theory (MPPT) based on the quasi-energy derivative (QED) method using Gaussian-type orbital (GTO) basis. <sup>[g]</sup> Perturbational approach, configuration interaction (CI) calculation using GTO basis. <sup>[h]</sup> Configuration interaction (CI) + core polarization potential method with GTO basis. <sup>[i]</sup> Semi-empirical method using oscillator strength distributions. Numerical simulations. <sup>[j]</sup> TDDFT with adiabatic local density approximation (ALDA) and STO basis. <sup>[k]</sup> TDDFT with STO basis.

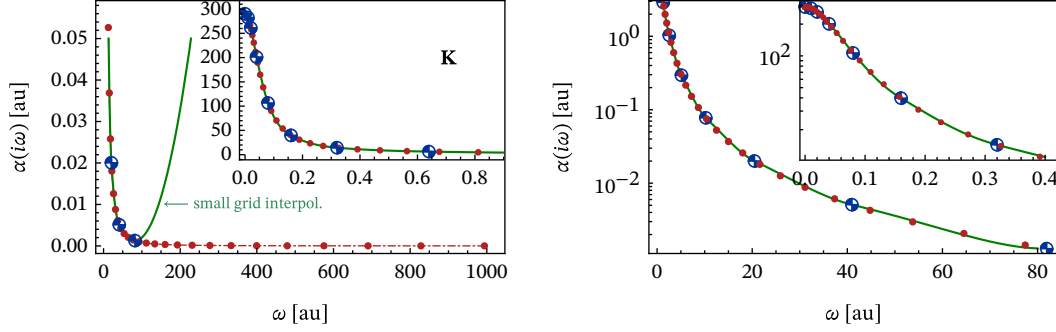


Figure 1: Potassium atom. Left: Isotropic polarizability for imaginary frequencies. Standard grid (large markers) vs. extended fine grid (small markers with dashed-dotted interpolation line) vs. Steffen interpolation (straight line) from the standard grid data. Right: Standard and fine grid data compared to the standard-grid Steffen interpolation, using a logarithmic scale for the vertical axis in the plot.

quencies.

Given the general behavior of  $\alpha(i\omega)$ , one may take advantage of interpolation methods that use advance knowledge of the monotonic decrease with increasing  $i\omega$ . We used in this work the monotonic cubic splines interpolation of Steffen.<sup>69</sup> As can be seen from the inset in the left panel of Figure 1, the Steffen interpolation works extremely well. The interpolation function generated from the standard grid of frequency points essentially goes right through the data points from the fine grid. The log-plot of  $\alpha(i\omega)$  in the right panel of Figure 1 indicates only minor interpolation errors between the standard grid points. This means that the standard grid with Steffen interpolation will produce reliable integrations for obtaining  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  coefficients.

Integration of  $\alpha(i\omega)$  itself between 0 and 81.92 au, as a measure of the accuracy of the grid and the interpolation, gives 35.93 for the Steffen interpolation using the *fine* grid, compared to 36.14 with linear interpolation between the data points from the same grid. The two values are 35.95 and 38.86, respectively, when using the coarser standard grid. The error from using linear as compared to Steffen interpolation is 7.5% for the coarse grid and drops to less than 1% for the fine grid. Importantly, the integrals from the Steffen interpolation are virtually identical for the two grids, reflecting the excellent performance of the interpolation. For comparison, the 12-point Gauss-Legendre quadrature of  $\alpha(i\omega)$  on the grid generated as described in Section 2 and the relevant cited references gives 36.05, in agreement with the Steffen-interpolated results beyond three significant figures.

Of course, the Steffen interpolation cannot be used beyond the highest frequency point of the grid. This is evident from the unphysical behavior of the standard grid interpolation

beyond 80 au seen in the left panel of Figure 1. It is therefore important to estimate the error from setting the grid cutoff around 80 au. For the fine grid, for which we assume the cutoff error to be negligible, the  $\alpha(i\omega)$  integration gives 36.06 for the full frequency range (almost 1000 au), compared to 35.93 with a cutoff of  $\omega = 81.92$ . The grid truncation error is therefore only about 0.3% for the integral of  $\alpha$  itself. For the integrations used to obtain  $C_6(K,K)$  and  $C_9(K,K,K)$ , the truncation error turned out to be negligible already with the standard grid, because products of  $\alpha(i\omega)$  go to zero even faster than  $\alpha$ , and only the data points corresponding to low imaginary frequencies are sampled effectively. For the same reason, the grid spacing error may become somewhat amplified. For the standard grid, we obtain  $C_6(K,K) = 3901$  from Steffen interpolation of  $\alpha(i\omega)$  and integration according to Equation (1). The data from the fine grid gives 3895 instead, revealing an error of 0.2% with the standard grid mainly from the larger grid spacing at lower frequencies. For comparison, the 12-point Gauss-Legendre quadrature gives 3895, again in agreement by three significant figures or better with the Steffen-interpolated results. Comparable relative agreements were obtained for  $C_9(K,K,K)$ . Although the Gauss-Legendre quadrature appears to work at least as well as the integration of the Steffen interpolation function, it is easier to add results for additional frequencies to the interpolation procedure than adding points to the Gauss-Legendre grid. The latter requires re-calculating the polarizability at all grid points if the grid size is increased. We opted to proceed with the Steffen interpolation. The interpolation and cut-off errors are perfectly acceptable, given that the finite basis TDDFT calculations with approximate functionals entail other systematic errors. Dispersion coefficients from the present calculations, as reported throughout the remainder of this article, were therefore obtained from Steffen-interpolated data for the standard grid.

### 3.3 $C_6(A,A)$ coefficients for alkali-metal atoms and some diatomic molecules

Plots of  $\alpha(i\omega)$  are shown again in Figure 2, comparing Li, Na, and K. Additional plots for  $H_2$ ,  $N_2$ , and CO are shown in Figure S1. The curves all behave qualitatively the same, although the frequency range at which the inflection point is reached extends significantly further for the diatomics, which also have a much smaller polarizability than the alkali atoms.

Table 2 collects the calculated  $C_6(A,A)$  for  $A = \text{Li, Na, K}$  and the diatomic molecules  $H_2$ ,  $N_2$  and CO. We also compare with other theoretical works. Our calculated  $C_6$  are within the range of previously calculated values. For Li and Na, the  $C_6$  coefficients are very similar to the those reported by Banerjee et al.,<sup>4</sup> which were obtained with a ‘sum over states’ TDDFT method, a non-hybrid functional, and Slater-type orbital basis sets. Furthermore, the  $C_6$  coefficient for Li is nearly the same as the one calculated with a local response dis-

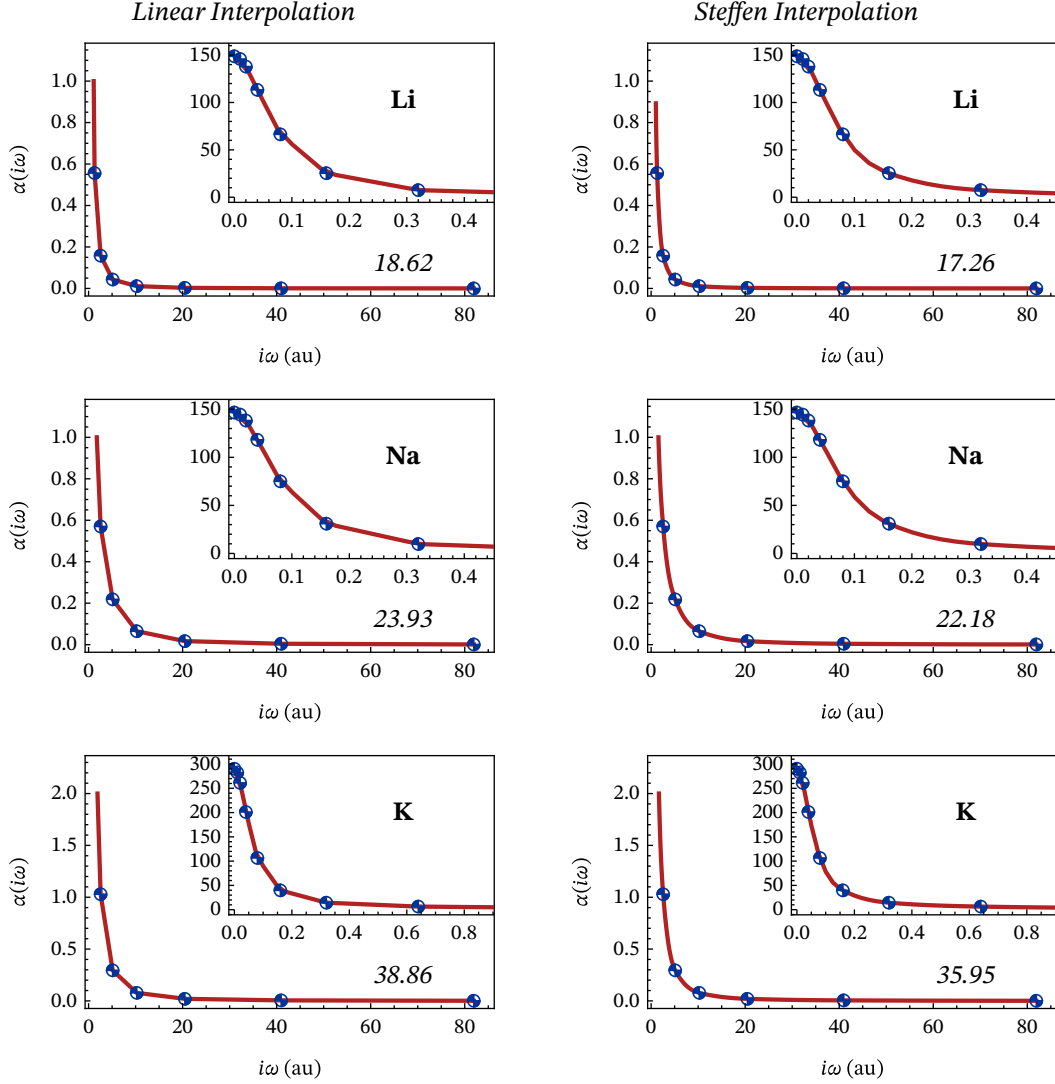


Figure 2: Polarizability at imaginary frequencies for the alkali-metal atoms Li, Na and K. Left: Linear interpolation Right: Cubic monotonic Steffen interpolation. The area under each interpolation is indicated by the numbers in italics.

persion method.<sup>25</sup> The  $C_6$  coefficient obtained for K from our approach is very close to those reported by Gould and Bučko<sup>19</sup> (who used TDDFT and a ‘bespoke’ radial numerical code designed specifically for atoms), Chu and Dalgarno<sup>23</sup> (who likewise appeared to have used a code tailored for atoms, along with TDDFT) and Jiang et al.<sup>54</sup> Our  $C_6$  coefficients of  $H_2$  and  $N_2$  are very similar to those evaluated previously by using dipole oscillator strength techniques, as in references 80 and 52 (*vide infra*). For CO, we also observe a good agreement between our approach and those calculated with dipole oscillator strength methods.<sup>81</sup> The value in the literature that matches best was obtained from all-electron TDDFT based method.<sup>7</sup>

### 3.4 $C_6(A,B)$ and $C_6(A,B_2)$ coefficients for alkali metal systems

For additional validation of our approach & implementation, we calculated  $C_6(A,B)$  and  $C_6(A,B_2)$  coefficients for the alkali metal atoms and compare them with available literature data<sup>2-5,83,84</sup> in Tables 3 and 4. Similar  $C_6(A,B)$  and  $C_6(A,B_2)$  coefficients are obtained in our approach compared to other studies, and the trends between different AB and AB<sub>2</sub> systems are faithfully reproduced, although in line with the noted low static polarizability for Li and

Table 2: Dispersion coefficients  $C_6(A,A)$  for the alkali-metal atoms and small diatomic molecules.<sup>[a]</sup>

System	$C_6$	Literature Data
Li	1195	1118, <sup>[b]</sup> 1426, <sup>[b]</sup> 1385, <sup>[e]</sup> 1386, <sup>[g]</sup> 1389, <sup>[j]</sup> 1388, <sup>[l]</sup> 1387, <sup>[m]</sup> 1439, <sup>[n]</sup> 1408, <sup>[o]</sup> 1100, <sup>[p]</sup> 1396, <sup>[q]</sup> 1392 <sup>[r]</sup>
Na	1332	1244, <sup>[b]</sup> 1473, <sup>[b]</sup> 1527, <sup>[e]</sup> 1518, <sup>[g]</sup> 1540, <sup>[j]</sup> 1472, <sup>[l]</sup> 1639, <sup>[n]</sup> 1566, <sup>[o]</sup> 1037, <sup>[p]</sup> 1562, <sup>[q]</sup> 1518 <sup>[r]</sup>
K	3901	3321, <sup>[b]</sup> 3590, <sup>[b]</sup> 3637, <sup>[e]</sup> 3574, <sup>[g]</sup> 3945, <sup>[j]</sup> 3813, <sup>[l]</sup> 4158, <sup>[n]</sup> 3914, <sup>[o]</sup> 3906, <sup>[q]</sup> 3923 <sup>[r]</sup>
H <sub>2</sub>	11.88	12.62, <sup>[c]</sup> 12.30, <sup>[c]</sup> 14.3, <sup>[f]</sup> 12.09, <sup>[h]</sup> 12.92, <sup>[k]</sup> 12.10 <sup>[m]</sup>
N <sub>2</sub>	72.14	75.63, <sup>[c]</sup> 71.46, <sup>[d]</sup> 77.2, <sup>[f]</sup> 73.43, <sup>[h]</sup> 74.09, <sup>[k]</sup> 73.3 <sup>[m]</sup>
CO	78.38	89.14, <sup>[c]</sup> 73.96, <sup>[e]</sup> 83.8, <sup>[f]</sup> 81.31, <sup>[i]</sup> 79.75 <sup>[k]</sup>

<sup>[a]</sup>This work. Equation (1) with CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ. <sup>[b]</sup>Reference 4. ‘Sum over states’ TDDFT method with Slater-type orbital (STO) basis. <sup>[c]</sup>Reference 62. Time-Dependent coupled Hartree-Fock (TDCHF) method with Gaussian-type orbitals (GTO) basis. <sup>[d]</sup>Reference 82. Time-Dependent coupled Hartree-Fock (TDCHF) method with tesseral harmonic GTO basis. <sup>[e]</sup>Reference 5. Perturbational approach, configuration interaction (CI) calculation using GTO basis. <sup>[f]</sup>Reference 1. TDDFT within the adiabatic local density approximation (ALDA) kernel using STO basis. <sup>[g]</sup>Reference 3. Configuration interaction (CI) + core polarization potential method with GTO basis. <sup>[h]</sup>Reference 80. Dipole oscillator strength approach. Numerical simulations. <sup>[i]</sup>Reference 81. Dipole oscillator strength approach. Numerical simulations. <sup>[j]</sup>Reference 83. Semi-empirical method. Numerical simulations. <sup>[k]</sup>Reference 7. All-electron TDDFT based method with the STO basis. <sup>[l]</sup>Reference 2. Second order perturbation expansion method. Numerical simulations. <sup>[m]</sup>Reference 52. Dipole oscillator strength approach. Numerical simulations. <sup>[n]</sup>Reference 84. Coupled-cluster theory with GTO basis. <sup>[o]</sup>Reference 19. TDDFT with a ‘bespoke’ radial numerical code. <sup>[p]</sup>Reference 25. Local response dispersion method. Numerical simulations. <sup>[q]</sup>Reference 54. Semi-empirical method using the oscillator strength distributions. Numerical simulations. <sup>[r]</sup>Reference 23. TDDFT with a code tailored for atoms. Numerical simulations.

Na from CAMB3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ, the associated dispersion coefficients tend to be on the low end of the range of available values. We observe that our approach is in good agreement with the TDDFT sum-over-states method from reference 4 for Li-Na, Li-K, Na-K and K-K<sub>2</sub>. In addition, the perturbational approach from Reference 5 also gives very similar coefficients, especially for the A-B<sub>2</sub> systems.

In reference 19, Gould and Bučko found very accurate  $C_6(A,B)$  coefficients by employing

Table 3:  $C_6(A,B)$  for alkali atom pairs

Method/Source	Li-Na	Li-K	Na-K
Equation (1) <sup>[a]</sup>	1258	2151	2258
Equation (3) <sup>[a]</sup>	1259	2153	2255
Ref. 2 <sup>[b]</sup>	1427	2293	2348
Ref. 3 <sup>[c]</sup>	1448	2219	2309
Ref. 4 <sup>[d]</sup>	1448	2257	2288
Ref. 5 <sup>[e]</sup>	1452	2238	2336
Ref. 83 <sup>[f]</sup>	1460	2333	2443
Ref. 84 <sup>[g]</sup>	1532	2441	2595

<sup>[a]</sup>This work. CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ. <sup>[b]</sup> Second order perturbation expansion method. Numerical simulations. <sup>[c]</sup> Configuration interaction (CI) + core polarization potential method with Gaussian-type orbitals (GTO) basis. <sup>[d]</sup> ‘Sum over states’ TDDFT method with Slater-type orbital (STO) basis. <sup>[e]</sup> Perturbational approach, configuration interaction (CI) using GTO basis. <sup>[f]</sup> Semi-empirical method. Numerical simulations. <sup>[g]</sup> Coupled-cluster (CC) theory with GTO basis.

Table 4: Dipole-dipole dispersion coefficients  $C_6(A,B_2)$  in atomic units. Comparison with other works.

A	B <sub>2</sub>	This work <sup>[a]</sup>	Ref. 4 <sup>[b]</sup>	Ref. 5 <sup>[c]</sup>
Li	Li <sub>2</sub>	1695	2108	1935
Li	Na <sub>2</sub>	2065	2513	2394
Li	K <sub>2</sub>	3535	3967	3791
Na	Li <sub>2</sub>	1799	2148	2039
Na	Na <sub>2</sub>	2196	2562	2524
Na	K <sub>2</sub>	3728	4029	3966
K	Li <sub>2</sub>	3034	3327	3102
K	Na <sub>2</sub>	3698	3969	3838
K	K <sub>2</sub>	6390	6302	6144

<sup>[a]</sup> Equation (1) with CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ. <sup>[b]</sup> ‘Sum over states’ TDDFT method with Slater-type orbital (STO) basis. <sup>[c]</sup> Perturbational approach, configuration interaction (CI) using Gaussian-type orbital (GTO) basis.

the Moelwyn-Hughes<sup>85</sup> combining rule

$$C_6(A, B) = \frac{2C_6(A, A)C_6(B, B)}{\frac{\alpha^A(0)}{\alpha^B(0)}C_6(B, B) + \frac{\alpha^B(0)}{\alpha^A(0)}C_6(A, A)}. \quad (3)$$

Thus, if  $C_6(A, A)$  for different species A are already available, then the A–B dispersion coefficient can be estimated simply by calculating static polarizabilities. We calculated the  $C_6(A, B)$  coefficients according to Equation (3) for the alkali heterodimers, and compare the results with the ones obtained from Equation (1) in Table 3. Indeed, Equation (3) is seen to be very accurate, within the estimated error from the numerical integration of the interpolated polarizabilities using Equation (1). As a further test, for a system in which the polarizability and  $C_6$  of species A and B differ by several orders of magnitude,  $C_6(K, H_2)$  was evaluated. Integration of the polarizability product according to Equation (1) with Steffen interpolation gave 139.7 au. Equation (3) gave 131.0 instead, using the same underlying polarizability data. The approximation from Equation (3) is still reasonable, but the percentage error from the approximation is evidently larger for K–H<sub>2</sub> than it is for the alkali–alkali dimer systems, and the use of Equation (1) is preferable. However, one may envision the use of a scaling correction,<sup>19,23</sup> based on ratios of  $\alpha(\omega = 0)$  for species A and B, to correct for systematic errors in the calculated polarizability by employing a lower vs. higher level of theory. Of course, this would only be feasible for not too large systems where the scaling of the computational demands of a targeted high-level method (beyond the scaling of TDDFT linear response) is not impractical.

### 3.5 $C_6(A, A)$ coefficients of other small molecules and larger systems

For further validation and testing of the approach & implementation, closed-shell molecules, such as ammonia, benzene, ethane, or buckminsterfullerene ( $C_{60}$ ), as well as open-shell systems such as NH<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub> or NO, were selected, based on the availability of literature data. We also included several more open-shell systems for which polarizabilities and  $C_6$  coefficients have thus far not been reported, namely NO<sub>2</sub>, perchlorotriphenylmethyl (PTM), and a persistent bicarbazole radical cation that we encountered in a recent study of chiral emitters.<sup>73</sup>

Table 5 displays the static polarizabilities, as well as the corresponding dispersion  $C_6$  coefficients for the systems studied in this section. We also compare the results with the corresponding experimental polarizability (in case it is available in the literature) and theoretical  $C_6$  coefficients from other studies. Note that our approach for other diatomic molecules and larger systems is in very good agreement with experiments and other literature data. For the most part, the available reference data are for closed-shell systems, for the reason that com-

putational methods for open-shell systems have traditionally been more limited, as already stated in the Introduction.

The reference data for O<sub>2</sub> and NO, which are both open-shell molecules, were obtained from discretized (pseudospectral) dipole oscillator strength distributions (DOSDs)<sup>52</sup> based on experimental data, or frequency-dependent polarizability data using Padé approximants also in conjunction with experimental data.<sup>53</sup> As such, these reference values can be con-

Table 5: Static polarizabilities ( $\alpha$ ) and dipole-dipole dispersion coefficients  $C_6(A,A)$  for selected molecules.<sup>[a]</sup>

System	$\alpha$ (calcd.)	$\alpha$ (expt.)	$C_6$	$C_6$ from Other Works
BeH	33.42 (32.72) <sup>[b]</sup>	-	170	
MgH	60.26 (62.66) <sup>[b]</sup>	-	471	
CaH	130.97 (134.34) <sup>[b]</sup>	-	1397	
CN	21.65 (20.50) <sup>[b]</sup>	-	116	
NH <sub>2</sub>	12.39 (12.21) <sup>[b]</sup>	-	62.9	
NH <sub>3</sub>	14.8 (15.6) <sup>[f]</sup>	15.0 <sup>[c]</sup>	88.7	94.4, <sup>[f]</sup> 89.1, <sup>[j]</sup> 89.0, <sup>[h]</sup> 79.7 <sup>[q]</sup>
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	27.9 (30.7, <sup>[f]</sup> 29.4, <sup>[k]</sup> 27.6 <sup>[k*]</sup> )	30.2 <sup>[c]</sup>	357	397, <sup>[f]</sup> 374.4, <sup>[k]</sup> 349.2 <sup>[k]</sup> , 381.8 <sup>[n]</sup> , 374.5 <sup>[t]</sup>
C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	69.7 (68.2, <sup>[g]</sup> 70.0, <sup>[g*]</sup> 76.8, <sup>[o]</sup> 79.5, <sup>[o]</sup> 68.7 <sup>[r]</sup> )	68.7 <sup>[d]</sup>	1765	1737, <sup>[g]</sup> 1773, <sup>[g*]</sup> 1730, <sup>[m]</sup> 1726, <sup>[p]</sup> 1956.8 <sup>[q]</sup> , 1779 <sup>[r]</sup> , 1874 <sup>[t]</sup>
O <sub>2</sub>	10.7	10.8 <sup>[c]</sup>	60.7	61.6 <sup>[h]</sup>
NO	11.6	-	68.1	69.7, <sup>[h]</sup> 69 <sup>[l]</sup>
NO <sub>2</sub>	19.7	-	160	
BCz	387.4	-	45.0 <sup>[u]</sup>	
PTM	448.7	-	69.0 <sup>[u]</sup>	
C <sub>60</sub>	545.7 (538.0, <sup>[s]</sup> 543.1 <sup>[s]</sup> )	516±54 <sup>[e]</sup>	99.0 <sup>[u]</sup>	98.8, <sup>[u,i]</sup> 101.0, <sup>[u,g]</sup> 101.8, <sup>[u,g]</sup> 96.0 <sup>[u,s]</sup> , 97.1 <sup>[u,t]</sup>

<sup>[a]</sup> This work, except where indicated otherwise. CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ. Calculated polarizabilities from the literature given in parentheses. <sup>[b]</sup>Reference 28. Møller-Plesset perturbation theory (MPPT) based on the quasi-energy derivative (QED) method using Gaussian-type orbital (GTO) basis. <sup>[c]</sup>Reference 86. <sup>[d]</sup>Reference 87. <sup>[e]</sup>Reference 88. <sup>[f]</sup>Reference 1. Time-dependent Density Functional Theory (TDDFT) within the adiabatic local density approximation (ALDA) kernel using Slater-type orbital (STO) basis. <sup>[g]</sup>Reference 12. Time-dependent Hartree-Fock (TDHF) with GTO basis. <sup>[g\*]</sup>Reference 12. TDDFT with GTO basis. <sup>[h]</sup>Reference 52. Derived from experimental data; see text for details. <sup>[i]</sup>Reference 16. TDDFT with GTO basis. <sup>[j]</sup>Reference 89. Dipole oscillator strength distributions (DOSDs) method. Numerical simulations. <sup>[k]</sup>Reference 10. TDDFT with GTO basis. <sup>[k\*]</sup>Reference 10. TDHF with GTO basis. <sup>[l]</sup>Reference 53. Derived from experimental data; see text for details. <sup>[m]</sup>Reference 14. TDDFT time propagation approach with ALDA. <sup>[n]</sup>Reference 90. DOSDs method. Numerical simulations. <sup>[o]</sup>Reference 91. HF level using GTO basis. <sup>[p]</sup>Reference 35. Symmetry-adapted perturbation theory (SAPT) with GTO basis. <sup>[q]</sup>Reference 38. Effective fragment potential (EFP2) method with GTO basis. <sup>[r]</sup>Reference 43. Coupled-cluster singles and doubles (CCSD) with GTO basis. <sup>[s]</sup>Reference 24. TDDFT with GTO basis. <sup>[t]</sup>Reference 45. Resolution-of-identity (RI) coupled-cluster singles and approximate doubles (RI-CC2) with GTO basis. <sup>[u]</sup>Values should be multiplied by 10<sup>3</sup>.

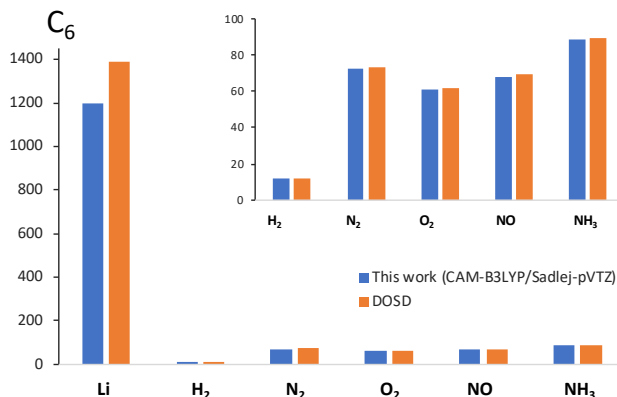


Figure 3: Dipole-dipole dispersion coefficients  $C_6(A,A)$  of selected systems obtained with TDDFT CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ, compared to DOSD-based results from Reference 52 reflecting experimental data.

sidered to represent experimental  $C_6$  coefficients. Figure 3 compares the  $C_6$  coefficients of selected small systems determined with our TDDFT approach versus data from Margoliash and Meath,<sup>52</sup> whose used the aforementioned DOSD approach. The Li data reflects the aforementioned underestimation of the calculated static polarizability with TDDFT CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ. Otherwise, the different results agree very well, both for closed-shell and open-shell molecules. Previous studies for  $C_6H_6$  and  $C_{60}$  fullerene employed the aforementioned Gauss-Legendre quadrature.<sup>12,24,43</sup> We note that we obtain very similar data using the Steffen interpolation (see Table 5), showing that the integration accuracy is sufficient for these systems.

Given that the agreement of our data for  $C_{60}$  with literature data is also very good, we conclude that the NWChem implementation is capable of computing accurate linear response properties and dispersion coefficients for open- and closed-shell small, medium and larger systems.

### 3.6 $C_9$ coefficients

To demonstrate broader applicability of the method, additionally,  $C_9$  coefficients were determined for alkali-metal atoms, diatomic molecules, and  $NH_3$ . For the case of three identical atoms, Midzuno and Kihara<sup>92,93</sup> derived an approximate expression for  $C_9(A, A, A)$ , which is given by

$$C_9(A, A, A) = \frac{3}{4} \alpha^A(0) C_6(A,A), \quad (4)$$

along with a generalized approximate expression for  $C_9(A,B,C)$ . We calculated the  $C_9$  coefficients according to Equations (2) and (4), and compared to available literature data. Results

are collected in Tables 6, 7, 8, S2 and S3.

For the alkali metal atoms, Marinescu et al.<sup>31</sup> determined the three-body dispersion coefficients using nondegenerate perturbation theory and atomic hydrogen-like wavefunctions in the presence of pseudopotentials. Tang and coworkers<sup>94</sup> used oscillator strength sum rules, and Kang et al.<sup>95</sup> employed the combined  $l$ -dependent model potential with the linear variation method based on B-spline basis functions. In line with the  $C_6$  coefficients, deviations between our approach and these studies is also observed for the  $C_9$  coefficients of Li and Na (Tables 6 and 7), because of the underestimation of the polarizability of these atoms by CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ. For the K atom, we obtain very similar results to other data from the literature, which is also in line with the findings for the polarizability. The aforementioned correction scheme would seem to be useful, as it is easy to obtain the atomic polarizability with a large variety of high-level methods. Data for other functionals are discussed further below. Our limited set of data for the  $C_9(A,A,A)$  with  $A = \text{Li, Na, or K}$  confirms the excellent performance of the approximation provided by Equation (4).

For some diatomic molecules and  $\text{NH}_3$ , DOSD-derived data from Margoliash et al.<sup>96</sup> and, McDowell and Meath<sup>97</sup> are taken as references for our  $C_9(A,B,C)$  coefficients. Tables 8, S2

Table 6: Coefficients  $C_9(A,A,A)$  for alkali-metal atoms. Comparison with available literature data.

Atom	Eq. (2) <sup>[a]</sup>	Eq. (4) <sup>[a]</sup>	Ref. 31 <sup>[b]</sup>	Ref. 94 <sup>[c]</sup>	Ref. 95 <sup>[d]</sup>
Li	133061	133362	170100	170620	170100
Na	145559	146453	175800	189200	175800
K	834151	849345	837500	831800	838200

<sup>[a]</sup> This work. CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ. <sup>[b]</sup> Nondegenerate perturbation theory. <sup>[c]</sup> Oscillator strength sum rules. <sup>[d]</sup>  $l$ -dependent model potential with the linear variation method.

Table 7: Triple-dipole dispersion coefficients  $C_9(A,B,C)$  for the combinations of alkali-metal atoms Li, Na and K. Comparison with available literature data.

A	B	C	This work <sup>[a]</sup>	Ref. 31 <sup>[b]</sup>	Ref. 95 <sup>[c]</sup>
Li	Li	Na	136760	171600	171700
Li	Li	K	244456	288400	288600
Na	Na	Li	140904	173500	173600
Na	Na	K	257346	292800	292900
K	K	Li	450780	490800	491100
K	K	Na	460777	492900	493500
Li	Na	K	250535	290400	290500

<sup>[a]</sup> This work. CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ. <sup>[b]</sup> Nondegenerate perturbation theory. <sup>[c]</sup>  $l$ -dependent model potential with the linear variation method.

and S3 show excellent agreement between the methods, apart from a now-expected underestimation when Li is involved because of the underestimation of the static polarizability by CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ. We also predict  $C_9$  coefficients using other small and large systems for which these coefficients have not been reported thus far. Table S8 collects data for  $C_9(A,B,C)$  involving CO, CN, O<sub>2</sub>, NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub>. Table 9 gathers our predictions for the  $C_9$  involving larger systems, and additional calculated data can be found in Tables S4, S5, S6, and S7.

Table 8: Triple-dipole dispersion coefficients  $C_9(A,B,C)$  in atomic units involving Li, selected diatomic molecules, or NH<sub>3</sub>. Comparison with DOSD-derived data from Margoliash et al.<sup>96</sup> and McDowell and Meath.<sup>97</sup>

A	B	C	This work <sup>[a]</sup>	DOSD <sup>96</sup>	DOSD <sup>97</sup>
H <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	CO	275.3	-	280.6
H <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>	CO	248.3	-	252.1
H <sub>2</sub>	CO	NO	266.5	-	272.1
N <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub>	Li	869.2	924.6	
N <sub>2</sub>	CO	O <sub>2</sub>	586.5	-	594.6
N <sub>2</sub>	CO	NO	628.6	-	640.4
O <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub>	Li	782.4	830.8	-
O <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	Li	1734	1830	-
O <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub>	234.3	235.7	235.9
NO	H <sub>2</sub>	Li	846.7	903.0	-
NO	N <sub>2</sub>	Li	1876	1988	-
NO	N <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub>	251.4	254.2	254.5
NO	O <sub>2</sub>	Li	1689	1787	-
NO	O <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub>	226.8	228.7	228.7
NO	O <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	537.8	541.0	541.5
CO	O <sub>2</sub>	NO	568.0	-	576.7
NH <sub>3</sub>	H <sub>2</sub>	Li	1062	1121	-
NH <sub>3</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	Li	2349	2465	-
NH <sub>3</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub>	298.5	299.8	-
NH <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>	Li	2115	2216	-
NH <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub>	269.1	269.4	-
NH <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	633.2	632.0	-
NH <sub>3</sub>	NO	Li	2289	2408	-
NH <sub>3</sub>	NO	H <sub>2</sub>	289.0	290.0	-
NH <sub>3</sub>	NO	N <sub>2</sub>	679.0	681.2	-
NH <sub>3</sub>	NO	O <sub>2</sub>	613.2	613.5	-

<sup>[a]</sup>CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ.

### 3.7 Dependence of $C_6$ and $C_9$ coefficients on the functional

As seen, the polarizabilities and therefore the  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  coefficients depend on the accuracy of the dipole polarizabilities. The polarizability for Li and Na calculated with CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ underestimates the experimental reference values noticeably, which presumably translates into large deviations for the corresponding  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  coefficients. Therefore, other functionals that give static dipole polarizability values closer to the experiments were tested for verification. We evaluate here the results for Li and Na atoms, as they are the ones with largest error respect to other methods.

Table 10 lists the static polarizabilities, and the  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  coefficients for Li and Na varying the functional (and basis) employed. As expected, when the static polarizability is closer to experiments, the resulting  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  coefficients agree much better with other studies (compare with Tables 2 and 6). Excellent agreement is obtained with the LC functional LC- $\omega$ PBE for Li and with LC-PBE and the jorge-ATZP basis for Na. The table also shows results for  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  from the CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ calculations, scaled by the square or the cube, respectively, of the static polarizability results obtained with the different functionals relative to CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ. These are the dispersion coefficients corresponding to a global scaling correction for the  $\alpha(i\omega)$  data set based on the static polarizability alone. The results are evidently improved over CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ, but not spot-on with the full results from the other functionals. This demonstrates that the dispersion of  $\alpha(i\omega)$  relative to  $\alpha(0)$  is also affected by the functional, and accurate results cannot be recovered simply by scaling  $\alpha(i\omega)$  uniformly. Nonetheless, it is seen that the error in the static polarizability is a primary source of errors in the resulting  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  coefficients, whereas an incorrect prediction of the dispersion of  $\alpha$  is a secondary source of errors. A simple scaling correction

Table 9: Triple-dipole dispersion coefficients  $C_9(A,B,C)$  involving  $C_2H_6$ ,  $C_6H_6$ , BCz, PTM, and  $C_{60}$ .

A	B	C	CAM-B3LYP/Sadlej-pVTZ
$C_2H_6$	$C_6H_6$	BCz	192344
$C_2H_6$	$C_6H_6$	PTM	238168
$C_2H_6$	$C_6H_6$	$C_{60}$	284193
$C_2H_6$	BCz	PTM	1207920
$C_2H_6$	BCz	$C_{60}$	1442150
$C_2H_6$	PTM	$C_{60}$	1784310
$C_6H_6$	BCz	PTM	2772140
$C_6H_6$	BCz	$C_{60}$	3312130
$C_6H_6$	PTM	$C_{60}$	4091020
BCz	PTM	$C_{60}$	20825200

based on  $\alpha(0)$  alone appears to be suitable for eliminating the leading-order errors.

Table 10: Static polarizabilities, dipole-dipole dispersion coefficients  $C_6(A,A)$  and triple-dipole  $C_9(A,A,A)$  coefficients for Li and Na using different functionals. The basis employed is Sadlej-pVTZ except where noted otherwise.<sup>[a]</sup>

System	Functional	$\alpha$	$C_6$	scaled $C_6$	$C_9$	scaled $C_9$
Li	CAM-B3LYP	148.8	1195	-	133061	-
	LC- $\omega$ PBE ( $\omega=0.4$ )	165.3	1406	1475	173983	182415
	LC-PBE0 ( $\omega=0.3$ )	160.2	1343	1385	160956	166046
Na	CAM-B3LYP	146.6	1332	-	145559	-
	LC-PBE ( $\omega=0.27$ )	164.8	1589	1683	195389	206780
	LC-PBE/jorge-ATZP ( $\omega=0.27$ )	161.4	1541	1615	185900	194244

<sup>[a]</sup>See text for an explanation of the ‘scaled’ columns. The experimental  $\alpha$  for Li and Na is  $164 \pm 3.0$  and  $159.2 \pm 3.4$ , respectively.<sup>78</sup> See Tables 2 and 6 for  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  coefficients from other works.

## 4 Conclusions

We have demonstrated an efficient and accurate way to calculate dispersion coefficients  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  coefficients for closed- and open-shell molecules by using dynamic TDDFT complex-frequency linear response theory as implemented in the NWChem program. The dispersion coefficients were determined by the calculation of the corresponding polarizability at different imaginary frequencies with subsequent monotonic Steffen interpolation and integration. The results for closed- vs. open-shell species appear to be of similar quality. Systems with known large static correlation effects were not included in the test set on purpose, because Kohn-Sham (TD)DFT with commonly used approximations is expected to fail in such cases. Extensive comparisons with literature data were used to validate the polarizability and  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  coefficients. For motivation of new approaches for calculating dispersion coefficients of larger complexes with open-shell subsystems, and for future reference, we have predicted polarizabilities  $\alpha(i\omega)$  as well as  $C_6$  and  $C_9$  coefficients for selected medium-size and larger compounds.

The results from the study indicate that a simple scaling of the static polarizabilities of the subsystems, based on comparisons of calculations at different levels of theory, would likely lead to improvements for cases where the static polarizability is predicted poorly by DFT. However, the dispersion of the polarizability along the imaginary frequency axis is also impacted by the functional/basis combination, such that a simple global scaling of  $\alpha(i\omega)$  based on  $\alpha(0)$  ratios is unlikely to recover the results from a higher-level method fully. However, the scaling appears to work well as a leading-order correction. The Steffen interpolation was shown to perform very well, and it can be recommended as an alternative to Gauss-Legendre quadrature for the integration used to obtain  $C_6$ ,  $C_9$ , and in similar types of integrations where the underlying data can be assumed to decay in a monotonic fashion.

## Supporting Information

Static polarizabilities of alkali-metal and diatomic molecules with different functionals and basis sets, polarizability of diatomic molecules using linear and Steffen interpolations, triple-dipole dispersion coefficients;  $C_9(A,A,A)$ ,  $C_9(A,A,B)$  and  $C_9(A,B,C)$  and, xyz coordinates.

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