

Chapter 7

On Molecular Dynamics of the Diamond D₅ Substructures

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Abstract Diamond D₅ is a hyperdiamond, with the rings being mostly pentagonal and built up on the frame of *mtn* structure, appearing in type II clathrate hydrates. The centrohexasquinane C₁₇ was proposed as the seed of D₅ (Diudea, *Studia Univ Babes-Bolyai Chemia*, 55(4):11–17, 2010a; Diudea, *Nanomolecules and nanostructures – polynomials and indices*. University of Kragujevac, Kragujevac, 2010b). In this chapter, we present some results on molecular dynamics (MD) of four structures based on C₁₇ skeleton, as all-carbon or partly oxygenated derivatives. The results are discussed in terms of structural stability as given by DFT calculations as well as by the stable fluctuations of root-mean-square deviations (*RMSD*) and total, potential, and kinetic energies provided by MD calculations. Within D₅, several other substructures are discussed in this chapter. The structural stability of such intermediates/fragments appearing in the construction/destruction of D₅ net is also discussed in terms of molecular dynamics simulation. The calculations herein discussed have been done using an empirical many-body potential energy function for hydrocarbons. It has been found that, at normal temperature, the hexagonal hyper-rings are more stable, while at higher temperature, the pentagonal ones are relatively stronger against the heat treatment.

7.1 Introduction

In the nano-era, a period starting with the discovery of C₆₀, in 1985, the carbon allotropes played a dominant role. Among the carbon structures, fullerenes (zero dimensional), nanotubes (one dimensional), graphene (two dimensional), diamond,

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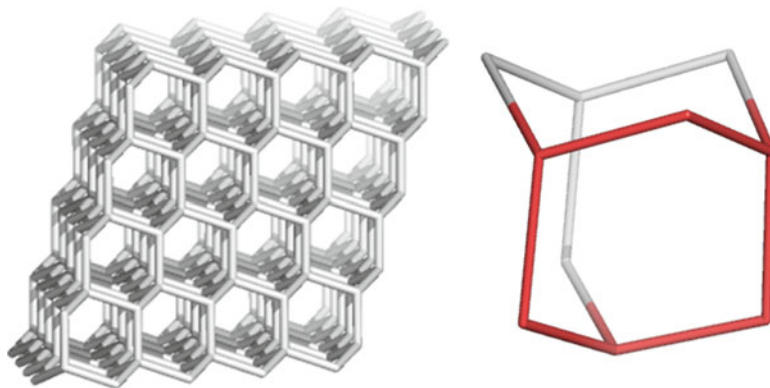


Fig. 7.1 Diamond D_6 (left) and its repeating unit, adamantane (right)

and spongy carbon (three dimensional) were the most studied (Diudea 2005, 2010a; Diudea and Nagy 2007), both from theoretical reasons and applications perspective.

Diamond D_6 , the beautiful classical diamond, with all-hexagonal rings of sp^3 carbon atoms (Fig. 7.1), crystallized in the face-centered cubic *fcc* network (space group *Fd-3m*), has kept its leading interest among the carbon allotropes, in spite of the “nano” varieties (Decarli and Jamieson 1961; Aleksenskiĭ et al. 1997; Osawa 2007, 2008; Williams et al. 2007; Dubrovinskaia et al. 2006). Its aesthetical appeal and mechanical characteristics are of great importance in jewelry and industry. Synthetic diamonds are currently produced by a variety of methods, including high pressure-high temperature (HPHT), chemical vapor deposition (CVD), and ultrasound cavitation (Khachatryan et al. 2008).

However, the diamond D_6 is not unique: a hexagonal network called lonsdaleite (space group *P6₃/mmc*) (Frondel and Marvin 1967) was discovered in a meteorite in the Canyon Diablo, Arizona, in 1967. Several diamond-like networks have also been proposed (Diudea et al. 2010; Hyde et al. 2008).

In a previous study, Diudea and Ilić (2011) described some multi-tori (i.e., structures showing multiple hollows (Diudea and Petitjean 2008)); one of them is illustrated in Fig. 7.2, left.

The reduced graph of this multi-torus provided the structure for the seed of diamond D_5 : C_{17} (Fig. 7.2, right) consisting of a tetravalent atom surrounded by six pentagons, the maximum possible number of pentagons around an sp^3 carbon atom. According to the chemical nomenclature, C_{17} is a centrohexaquinane, a class of structures previously studied by Gund and Gund (1981), Paquette and Vazeux (1981), and more recently by Kuck (1984, 2006) and Kuck et al. (1995).

Diamond D_5 is the name given by Diudea to diamondoids consisting mostly of pentagonal rings (Diudea 2010a, b; Diudea and Ilić 2011). D_5 is a hyperdiamond built up in the frame of the trinodal *mtn* structure, while its seed is eventually the centrohexaquinane C_{17} . However, D_5 belongs to the family of Clathrates with the point symbol net $\{5^5.6\}12\{5^6.6\}5$ and $2[5^{12}] + [5^{12} \times 6^4]$ tiling and belongs to the

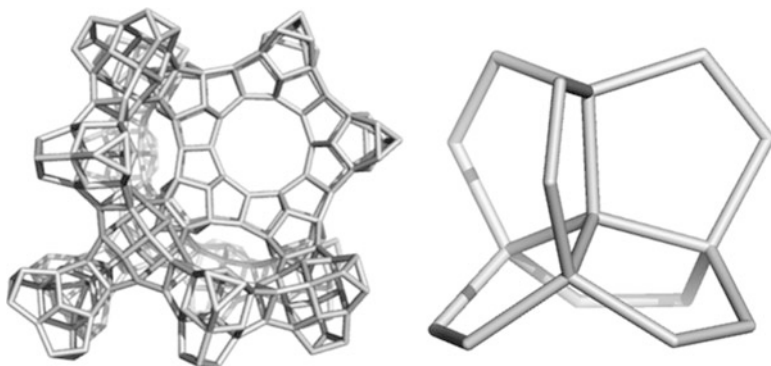
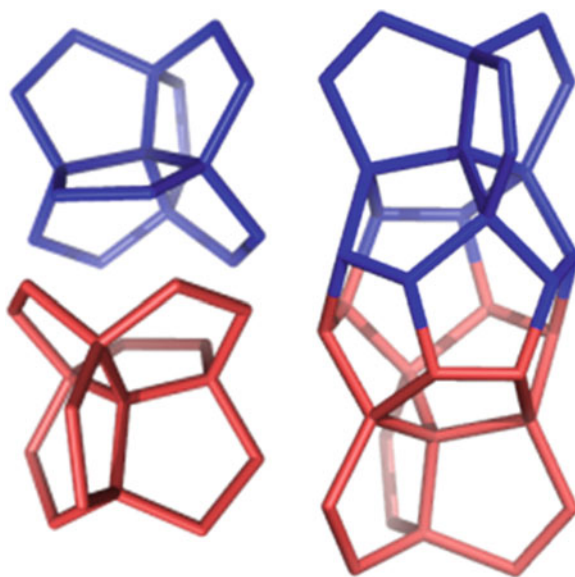


Fig. 7.2 A multi-torus (*left*) and its reduced graph C_{17} (*right*), the seed of diamond D_5

Fig. 7.3 A joint of two C_{17} units (*left*) to give a dimer C_{34} (*right*), the repeat unit (in crystallographic terms) of the diamond D_5 network



space group $Fd3m$ (Delgado-Friedrichs et al. 2005). It is precisely type II clathrate, also called C_{34} (Blasé et al. 2010), of which Si_{34} -analogue was already synthesized.

C_{17} can dimerize to $2 \times C_{17} = C_{34}$ (Fig. 7.3), the repeating unit, in crystallographic terms, of the diamond D_5 network. Thus, D_5 (Fig. 7.4) and $fcc-C_{34}$ are herein synonyms (Fig. 7.5).

In a chemist's view, the building of D_5 network may start with the seed C_{17} and continue with some intermediates, the adamantane- and diamantane-like ones included (Figs. 7.6, 7.7, and 7.8). The structure *ada_20_158* (Fig. 7.7, left) corresponds to adamantane (Fig. 7.5, left) in the classical diamond D_6 . In crystallochemical terms, an adamantane-like structure, as *ada_20_158*, is the

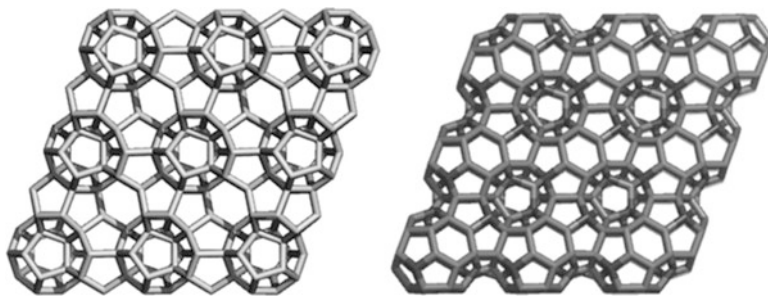


Fig. 7.4 Diamond D_5 _20_860 net (*left*) and D_5 _28_1022 co-net (*right*)

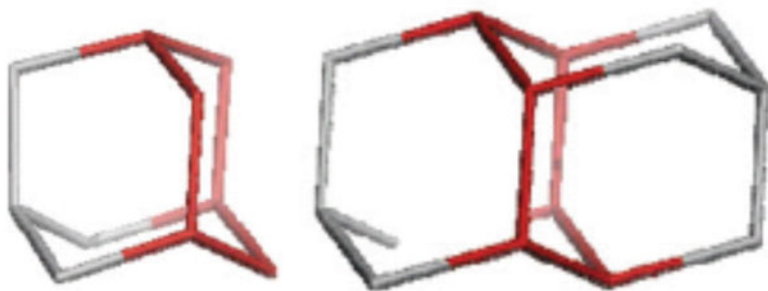


Fig. 7.5 Diamond D_6 : adamantane (*left*), diamantane (*right*)

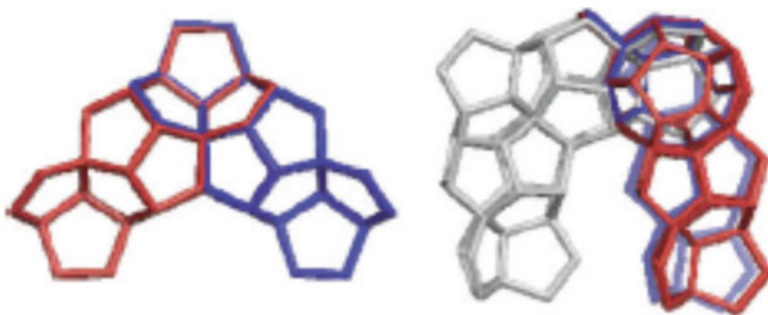


Fig. 7.6 Intermediate structures originating in C_{34} unit: C_{51} (*left*) and $3 \times C_{51}$ (*right*)

monomer which will probably condense to form the D_5 network (Fig. 7.4). The adalike structure, starting from C_{28} can be seen in Fig. 7.7, right. Diamantane-like units can also be modeled, as in Fig. 7.8 (compare with the diamantane, Fig. 7.5, right). In fact, there is one and the same triple periodic D_5 network, built up basically from C_{20} and having as hollows the fullerene C_{28} . The co-net D_5 _28 cannot be derived from C_{28} alone since the hollows of such a net consist of C_{57} units (a C_{20} -based

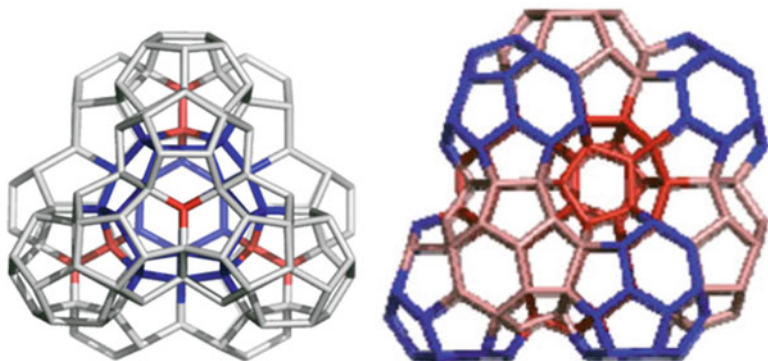


Fig. 7.7 Adamantane-like structures: *ada_20_158* (left) and *ada_28_213* (right)

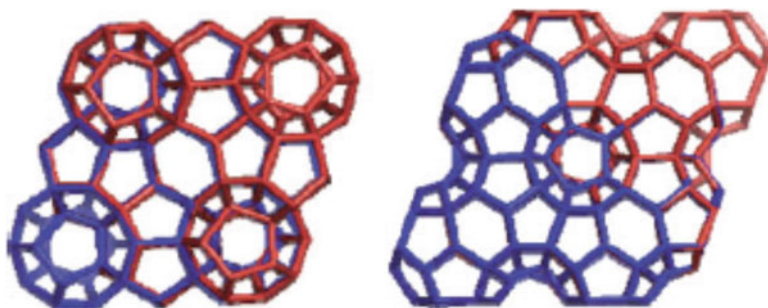


Fig. 7.8 Diamantane-like structures: *dia_20_226* net (left) and *dia_28_292* co-net (right)

structure, see above) or higher tetrahedral arrays of C_{20} , thus needing extra C atoms per ada-unit. It is worthy to note the stabilizing effect of the wings in case of C_{34} (Fig. 7.3, right) in comparison to C_{20} .

Remark the efforts made by a series of bright scientists (Prinzbach et al. 2006; Paquette et al. 1981; Saito and Miyamoto 2001; Eaton 1979) to reach the dodecahedral cage C_{20} , either as fullerene or hydrogenated species. Also remark the endeavor to synthesize the centrohexasquinane C_{17} , both as oxygen-containing heterocycle (Simmons and Maggio 1981; Paquette and Vazeux 1981) or all-carbon structure (Gestmann et al. 2006; Kuck 2006). Thus, the hyperdiamond $D_5_{20/28}$ mainly consists of sp^3 carbon atoms building ada-type repeating units (including C_{28} as hollows). The ratio $C-sp^3/C$ -total trends to one in a large enough network. As the content of pentagons $R[5]$ (Aleksenskiĭ et al. 1997; Williams et al. 2007) per total rings trend to 90 %, this network was named the diamond D_5 (Diudea 2010a, b).

In the above symbols, “20” refers to C_{20} and “28” refers to C_{28} , while the last number counts the carbon atoms in structures.

7.2 Method

In a study of structural stability, performed by Szeffler and Diudea (2012), ab initio calculations and molecular dynamics have been used. The four structures (Figs. 7.9 and 7.12) based on C_{17} skeleton, as all-carbon or partly oxygenated derivatives, were optimized at the Hartree-Fock (HF) (HF/6-31G**) and DFT (B3LYP/6-311+G**) levels of theory and submitted to molecular dynamics (MD) procedure. All calculations were performed in gas phase by Gaussian 09 (Gaussian 09 software package 2009) while MD calculations were done in vacuum, using Amber 10.0 software (Case et al. 2005). The single-point energy minima obtained for the investigated structures are shown in Table 7.1. Before MD, the atomic charges were calculated according to Merz-Kollmann scheme via the RESP (Wang et al. 2000) procedure, at HF/6-31G** level. The AMBER force field (Wang et al. 2004) was used for dynamic trajectory generation. There were several steps of molecular dynamics. After stabilization of energies and RMSD values during run, the actual molecular dynamics were performed, in a cascade way. Each tested system was heated by 20 ps while MD simulations were 100 ns long. The visualizations were prepared in the GaussView program. After MD run, the values of RMSD and energies of analyzed structures were recorded: total energy (E_{tot}), kinetic energy (E_{kin}), and potential energy (E_{pot}). In the analysis, averaged values of all generated points of energies and values of RMSD in every 1 ps of MD were used.

The stability of 12 other substructures was investigated by Kyani and Diudea (2012) by performing a molecular dynamics (MD) computer simulation, using an empirical many-body adaptive intermolecular reactive empirical bond-order (AIREBO) potential energy function. All the diamond D_5 substructures are fully



Fig. 7.9 C_{17} _hexaquinane trioxo derivatives: Paquette P_1 (left) and Diudea, D_1 (middle) and D_2 (right)

Table 7.1 The single-point energies of the optimized structures at DFT (B3LYP/6-311+G**) level of theory

B3LYP	C_{17}	D_1	D_2	P_1
B3LYP (a.u)	-655.058	-766.491	-766.480	-766.479
B3LYP_Gap (eV)	5.868	6.461	6.264	6.274

hydrogenated ones. The studied structures were optimized at the semiempirical PM3 level of theory and then submitted to the MD simulation procedure. Canonical ensemble molecular dynamics was used for this simulation. Within this ensemble, the number of atoms N , the volume V , and the temperature T are considered constants while velocities are scaled with respect to T , ensuring that the total kinetic energy, and hence the temperature, is constant (isokinetic MD). The initial velocities follow the Maxwell distribution. The AIREBO potential energy function (PEF) developed for hydrocarbons (Stuart et al. 2000), as provided by LAMMPS software (Plimpton 1995), was used to investigate the stability of nanostructures at increasing temperatures. This parameterized potential adds Lennard-Jones and torsional contributions to the many-body REBO potential (Brenner 2000; Brenner et al. 2000). It is similar to a pairwise dispersion-repulsion potential, while adding a bond-order function modulates the dispersion term and incorporates the influence of the local atomic environment. Through this interaction, individual atoms are not constrained to remain attached to specific neighbors, or to maintain a particular hybridization state or coordination number. Thus, at every stage of the simulation, the forming and breaking of the bonds is possible. This potential is derived from ab initio calculations, and therefore, it is well adapted to classical molecular simulations of systems containing a large number of atoms such as carbon nanostructures. The equations of particle motion were solved using the Verlet algorithm (Verlet 1967, 1968), and the temperature was gradually increased by 100 K at each run. One time step was taken to be 10–16 fs and at each run a relaxation with 5,000 time steps was performed. The root-mean-square deviation (RMSD) of the atoms was used as criterion for examining the stability of the simulated structures.

7.3 Results and Discussion

Stability evaluation was performed on four hypothetical seeds of D₅, the all-carbon structure C₁₇ (Fig. 7.2, right) and three trioxa derivatives of C₁₇. The isomer in Fig. 7.9, left, was synthesized by Paquette and Vazeux (1981) and is hereafter denoted as P₁. Other two structures, denoted as D₁ and D₂ (Fig. 7.9, middle and right), were proposed (Szeffler and Diudea 2012), as possibly appearing in rearrangements of the Paquette's P₁ structure. The last two structures would be the appropriate ones in the next step of dimerization to C₃₄, in fact the repeating unit of D₅ (Blasé et al. 2010).

The stability of molecules was evaluated both in static and dynamic temperature conditions. The isomer D₁ seems the most stable among all studied structures, as given by optimization in gas phase at DFT level (Table 7.1). In a decreasing order of stability, it follows P₁ and D₂. However, at MD treatment, the all-carbon C₁₇ appears the most stable, even at DFT level is the last one. This is probably because the C–C bond is more stable at temperature variations (see Fig. 7.12, below).

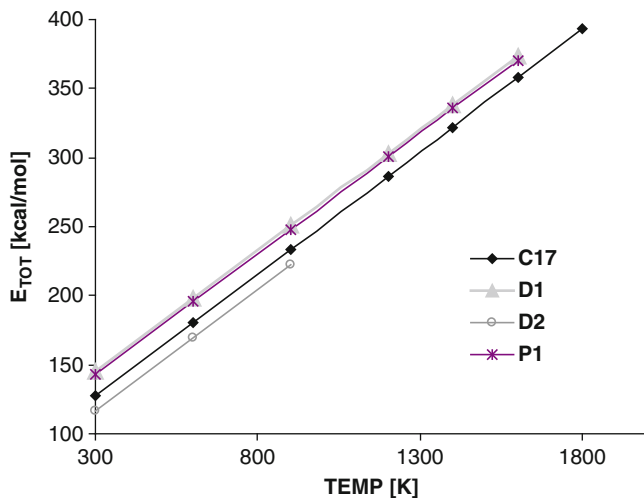
In MD, C₁₇ keeps its structure up to about 1,800 K, while its destruction starts at 2,000 K (Tables 7.2 and 7.4, Figs. 7.10 and 7.11). Kuck has reported a

Table 7.2 The average total energy (E_{tot}) values estimated, by MD, on geometries in the gas phase

C₁₇							
TEMP (K)	300	600	900	1,200	1,400	1,600	1,800
E_{tot} (kcal/mol)	127.405	180.379	233.358	286.460	322.227	357.665	393.123
δ	5.789	11.585	17.373	23.121	27.070	30.932	34.938
D₁							
TEMP (K)	300	600	900	1,200	1,400	1,600	
E_{tot} (kcal/mol)	144.996	197.907	250.689	303.114	337.947	373.136	
δ	5.782	11.593	17.273	23.106	26.739	30.745	
D2							
TEMP (K)	300	600	900				
E_{tot} (kcal/mol)	116.45	169.266	222.049				
δ	5.783	11.542	17.363				
P1							
TEMP (K)	300	600	900	1,200	1,400	1,600	
E_{tot} (kcal/mol)	142.574	195.448	247.889	300.329	335.524	370.602	
δ	5.798	11.535	17.300	23.076	26.931	30.678	

The averaged values were calculated on all the generated points of energies in every 1 ps of molecular dynamics

Symbol δ means the standard deviation

**Fig. 7.10** The plot of total energy (E_{tot}) versus temperature (TEMP)

centrohexaindane as the most symmetric structure in this series but also a benzo-centrohexaquinane (Kuck et al. 1995; Kuck 2006) as the last step structure in the synthesis of a nonplanar 3D structure, designed according to mathematical rules. However, in the synthesis of centrohexaquinane derivatives, C₁₇ remained yet elusive.

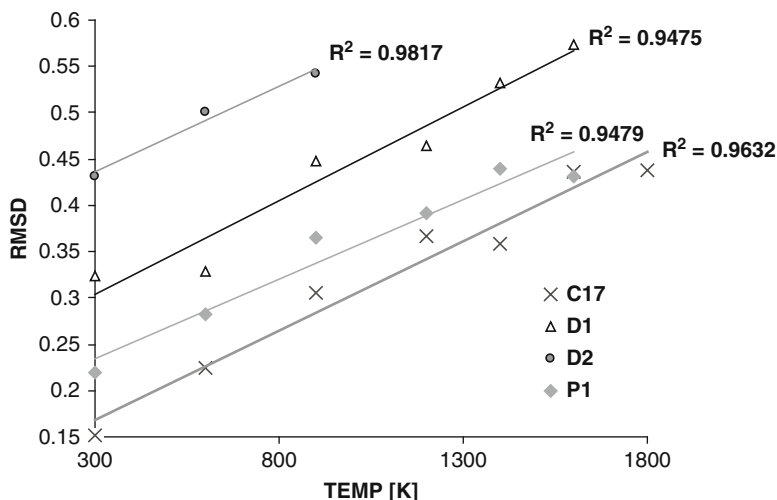


Fig. 7.11 The plot of RMSD versus temperature (TEMP)

Very close to C₁₇ behaves the oxygen-containing isomer D₁, as expected from its highest stability at DFT level.

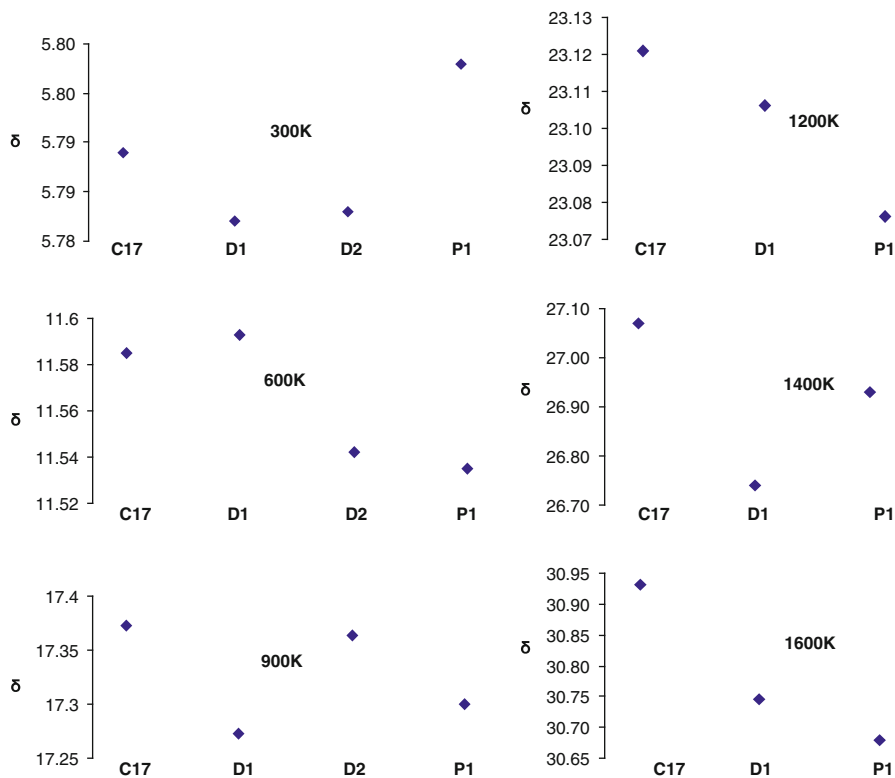
Despite, in molecular dynamics, a very long time (100ns) was led, it is believed that prolonged annealing at 1,800 K for both P₁ and D₁ isomers finally resulted in the destruction of these molecules. Thus, P₁ and D₁ isomers behave similarly in MD conditions. The isomer D₂ was the least stable one, as the largest RMSD values were recorded for this isomer.

According to molecular dynamics, it is clear that increasing the temperature resulted in higher values of energy and RMSD of all the analyzed structures, with high values of correlation. The plots of E_{tot} versus temperature for all tested systems are given in Fig. 7.10, while for RMSD, the plots are given in Fig. 7.11. As expected, the correlations in the RMSD plot are a little lower than those for E_{tot} . The MD calculations, listed in Tables 7.2, 7.3, and 7.4, show the following.

As can be seen from Tables 7.2 and 7.3, the values of standard deviations of the averaged values of E_{tot} are closely correlated with the values of temperature, in the range the molecular dynamics simulations were done. The values of these standard deviations at a given temperature are similar for all four studied structures, due to their structural relatedness. The smallest values of the RMS deviation are observed for C₁₇, with the lowest values of standard deviation (δ) at all the studied values of temperature (Table 7.4).

In the case of P₁, one can see a similar behavior but somewhat with larger values of RMSD, compared to the all-carbon structure C₁₇ (Table 7.4). It confirms the structural stability of the above structures. The largest values of the RMS deviation were recorded for D₂ isomer (Table 7.4 and Fig. 7.11). Visualization of the structural changes (first step destruction, the right column) is presented in Fig. 7.12.

Table 7.3 The values of standard deviations of E_{tot} at a given temperature (see the center of each slide) for the four investigated structures



When discussing about diamonds, we consider structures consisting mostly of sp^3 hybridized carbon atom. The molecular dynamic with formulation and parametrization intended for carbon system is REBO (Tersoff 1988a, b; Abell 1985). The Tersoff's and Brenner's (Brenner 1990, 1992) models could describe single-, double-, and triple-bond energies in carbon structures such as hydrocarbons and diamonds, where extended Tersoff's potential function is extended to radical and conjugated hydrocarbon bonds by introducing two additional terms into the bond-order function. Compared to the classical first-principle and semiempirical approaches, the REBO model is less time-consuming. In recent years, the REBO model has been widely used in studies concerning mechanical and thermal properties of carbon nanotubes (Ruoff et al. 2003; Rafii-Tabar 2004).

Molecular dynamic MD calculations using the REBO model were performed by Kyani and Diudea (2012) on the structures listed in Figs. 7.13 and 7.14. The last number in the symbol of structures refers to the number of carbon atoms.

Table 7.4 The averaged RMSD values estimated by molecular dynamics (MD) on the geometries in the gas phase

C ₁₇							
TEMP (K)	300	600	900	1,200	1,400	1,600	1,800
RMSD	0.151	0.224	0.305	0.366	0.358	0.437	0.438
δ	0.024	0.032	0.045	0.056	0.054	0.054	0.062
D ₁							
TEMP (K)	300	600	900	1,200	1,400	1,600	
RMSD	0.324	0.328	0.448	0.465	0.532	0.574	
δ	0.134	0.088	0.079	0.086	0.091	0.118	
D ₂							
TEMP (K)	300	600	900				
RMSD	0.432	0.500	0.542				
δ	0.257	0.245	0.208				
P ₁							
TEMP (K)	300	600	900	1,200	1,400	1,600	
RMSD	0.220	0.283	0.365	0.392	0.440	0.431	
δ	0.062	0.069	0.092	0.070	0.093	0.070	

The averaged values were calculated on all the generated points of RMSD in every 1 ps of MD

Symbol δ represents the standard deviation

The main reason for doing calculations on hydrogenated species, although the fragments can appear as non-hydrogenated ones, is the sp³ hybridization of carbon atoms in the diamond structures. Thus, the four-valence state is preserved.

PM3 calculations show the hexagonal hyper-rings more stable than the pentagonal ones, either with a hollow or filled one as in case of lens-like structures (Table 7.5, entries 5, 6 and 10). There is one exception; the empty hexagon of C₂₈ fullerenes (entry 9) is less stable than the corresponding empty pentagon (entry 7). The hexagonal filled ring structures are more stable than the empty ones, except the empty hexagon 20⁶_H₆₀ (entry 5), made from C₂₀, which seems to be the most stable, as isolated structure, herein discussed. Similarly, C₂₀H₂₀ (entry 1) is the stabilized form of the most reactive/unstable fullerene C₂₀. The stabilizing effect of ring filling is a reminiscence of the infinite crystal lattice, whose substructures are 20⁶_28²H₆₈ (diamond D₅ net) and 28⁶_20²H₉₂ (lonsdaleite L₅ net).

As in studies of the stability of hypothetical seeds of the diamond D₅ by using Amber 10.0 for MD, also here we could see that with increasing temperature, the energy of the systems increases, what would be expected. The total energy versus temperature for three of the considered systems is illustrated in (Fig. 7.15).

MD simulations on increasing temperature evolution show that the studied structures are stable up to 2,000 K, for the C₂₀-based structures (Fig. 7.13), and up to 1,500–2,000 K, for the C₂₈-based structures (Fig. 7.14). The three numbers at the figure bottom represent temperatures, in K degree, for: geometry modifications, topology changes, and major destruction of the structure. Where there are only two data, the topological changes were not observed.

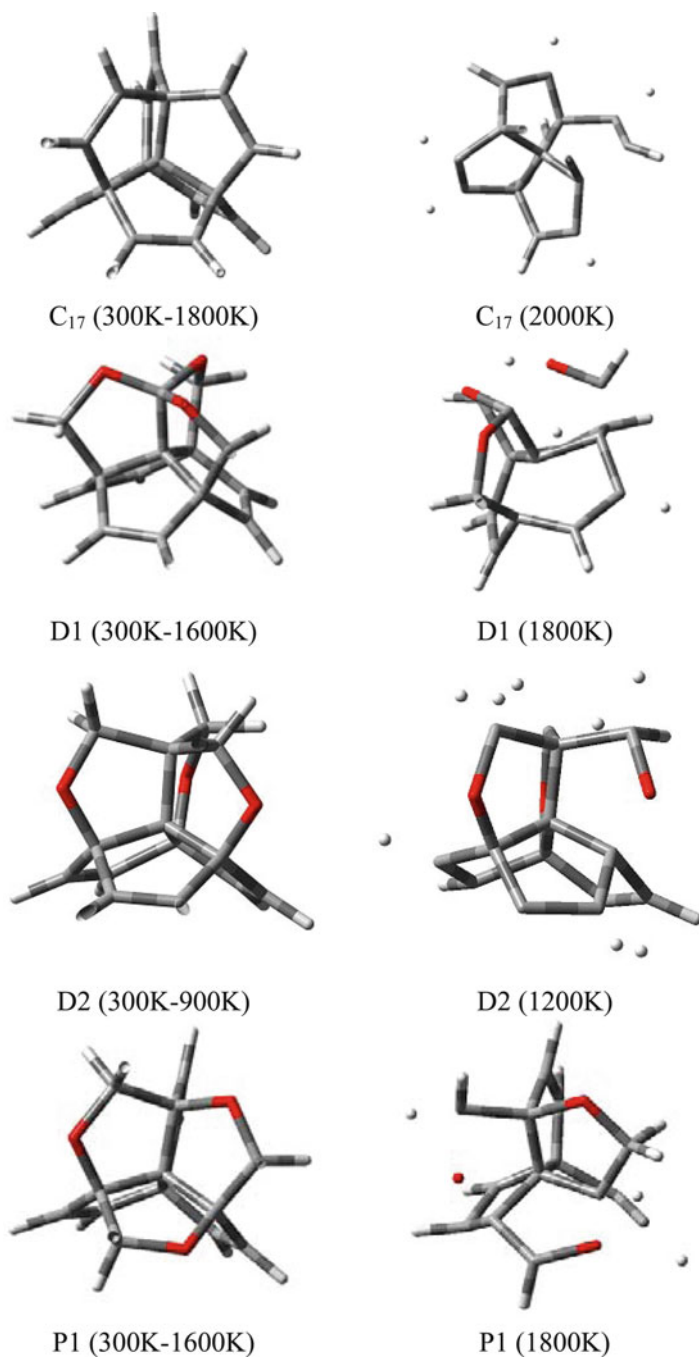


Fig. 7.12 The structure of the tested hypothetical seeds of the diamond D_5 during molecular dynamics

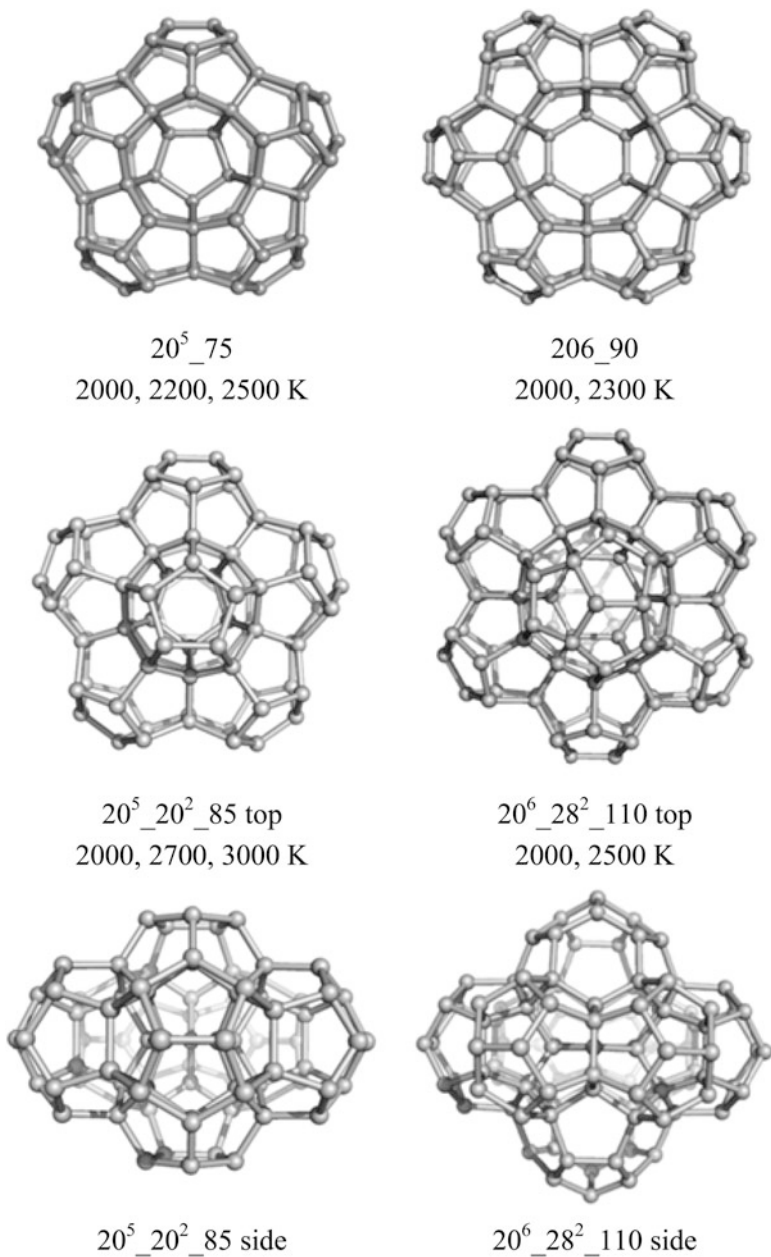


Fig. 7.13 C_{20} -based structures; $20^6_{28^2_{110}}$ a substructure of $D_5_{20/28}$ (Reproduced from Central European Journal of Chemistry 2012, 10(4), 1028–1033)

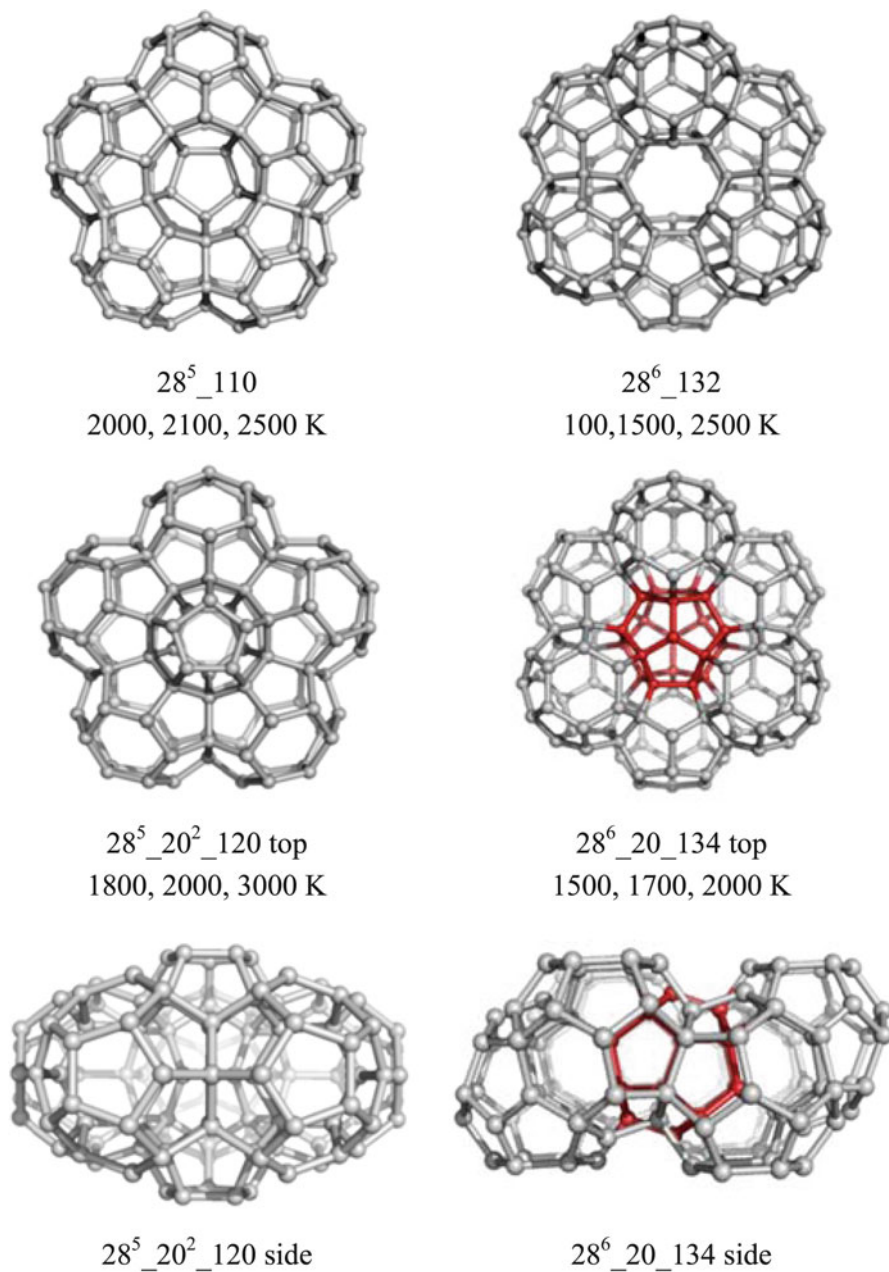


Fig. 7.14 C_{28} -based structures; $28^6_{20}_{134}$ a substructure of $L5_{28/20}$. The *red* lines show the core substructure, that is C_{20} the smallest fullerene (Reproduced from Central European Journal of Chemistry 2012, 10(4), 1028–1033)

Table 7.5 PM3 energies calculated on fully hydrogenated species

	Structure	Total energy (a.u.)	Gap (eV)
1	C ₂₀ H ₂₀	-0.0620	13.905
2	C ₂₈ H ₂₈	-0.0035	13.769
3	20 ⁵ _H ₅₀	0.0045	12.953
4	20 ⁵ _20 ² H ₅₀	0.0432	12.898
5	20 ⁶ _H ₆₀	-0.1215	13.198
6	20 ⁶ _28 ² H ₆₈	-0.0167	13.061
7	28 ⁵ _H ₈₀	0.1564	13.034
8	28 ⁵ _20 ² H ₈₀	0.1648	13.061
9	28 ⁶ _H ₆₀	0.3432	12.490
10	28 ⁶ _20 ² H ₉₂	0.1353	13.034

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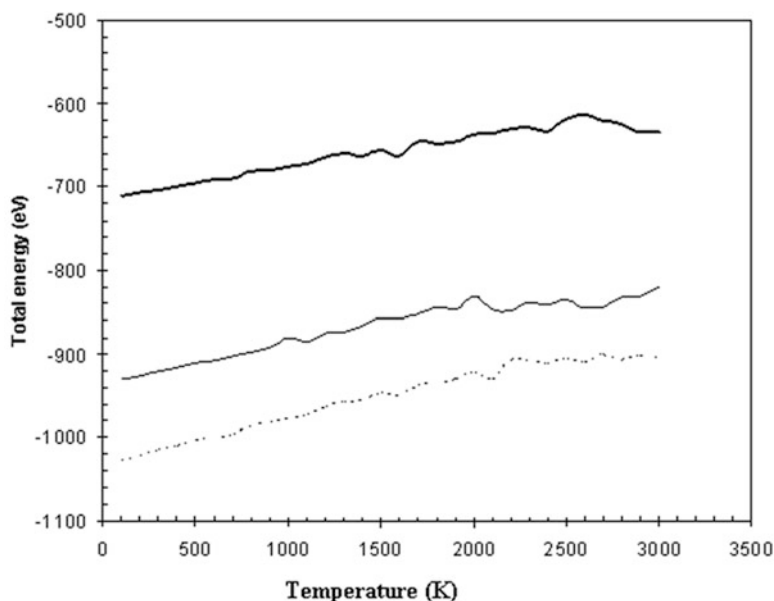


Fig. 7.15 Total energy versus temperature of some of the diamond D₅ substructures: 20⁵_20²H₅₀ (solid line, Table 7.5, entry 4), 20⁶_28²H₆₈ (simple line, Table 7.5, entry 6), and 28⁵_20²H₈₀ (dotted line, Table 7.5, entry 8) (Reproduced from Central European Journal of Chemistry 2012, 10(4), 1028–1033)

The structures in Fig. 7.16 show elongated bonds (i.e., broken bonds, marked by orange color) at temperatures above 2,000 K. Question about structure preserving must be addressed when more than one broken bond will appear (see the bottom row, Fig. 7.16). Above 2,500 K, the complete destruction is expected for all the three structures shown in Fig. 7.16; for two structures (those with only two temperatures on their bottom) the topological changes were not observed. In case of the basic fullerenes, the data are: C₂₀H₂₀, 2,700 and 3,000 K, and C₂₈H₂₈, 2,500, 2,600,

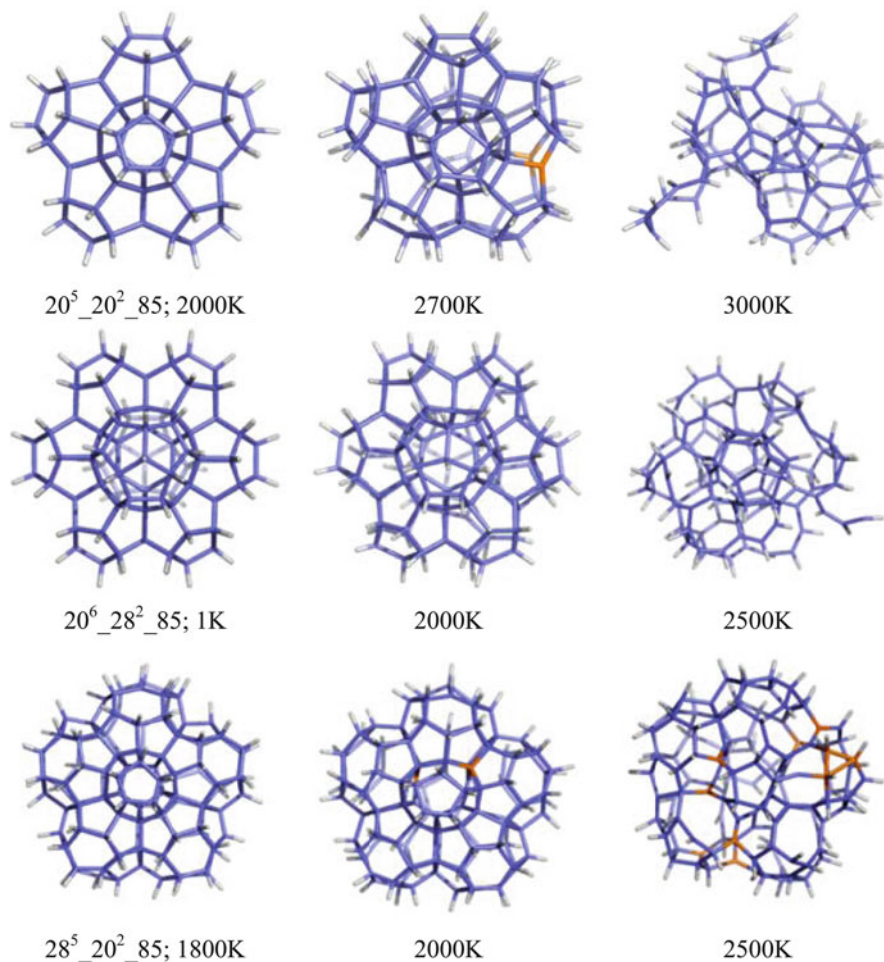


Fig. 7.16 Relaxed structures of 20⁵_20²_85, 20⁶_28²_85 and 28⁵_20²_85 at various temperatures. The *orange* colors mark the broken/formed bonds (Reproduced from Central European Journal of Chemistry 2012, 10(4), 1028–1033)

and 3,000 K. Among the frequent topological changes, the most important is the expansion of two pentagons sharing an edge to octagon and also the apparition of trigons, squares, or larger rings before the structure dramatically decomposes. It is obvious that the structural changes will affect the energetics of the system.

The MD data agree with the PM3 data; in fact, the C₂₀-based structures are more stable than the C₂₈-ones, which corresponds to the higher stability of diamond D₅ compared to lonsdaleite L₅ (Aste and Weaire 2008). At higher temperature, the five-fold hyper-rings seem to be more stable, at least in the isolated fragments (see Figs. 8.13 and 8.14). Remind that such fragments can appear either in synthesis of D₅

or in its destruction, their knowledge thus being of real interest. It is important to know the limit temperature, e.g., in the annealing process of repeating unit C₃₄ in the possible synthesis of D₅. Conversely, in the analysis of such diamondoids, the possible fragments appearing in the destruction of their lattice must be known.

7.4 Conclusions

In this chapter, structural stability of four seeds of the diamond D₅ and several substructures/fragments related to the D₅ diamond were investigated. In the first case, it was evaluated both in static and dynamic temperature conditions by molecular dynamics (MD). During MD, the all-carbon C₁₇ appeared the most resistant to changes in temperature. Structural and energetic stability of the other three seeds of D₅ vary both with the values of temperature and evolution time in molecular dynamics and the arrangement of oxygen atoms in the molecules. Among all the studied structures, the D₂ isomer is the most sensitive to changes in temperature. After optimization by B3LYP, D₁ isomer seemed to be the most stable one. The structure stability of D₁ and P₁ isomers in MD are similar. These two isomers are only slightly more sensitive to temperature as compared with the all-carbon C₁₇.

Other substructures/fragments related to the D₅ diamond (and its relative L5 lonsdaleite) were constructed and investigated for stability, by both static PM3 calculation and molecular dynamics simulation procedures as well. The results show a good stability of several hyper-rings made from the small fullerenes C₂₀ and C₂₈, modulated function of the central hollow, and the type consisting of small cages. At normal temperature, the hexagonal hyper-rings are more stable (as given by PM3 data), while at higher temperature, the pentagonal ones appear more stable, at least as isolated fragments. The substructures belonging to D₅ and L₅ showed a pertinent stability, possibly increased in the infinite corresponding lattice. The actual study employed the molecular dynamics simulation in finding the temperature limits for the most important events in a molecule: changes in topology and next its destruction.

These results could be useful in guiding further reactions, e.g., the dimerization to C₃₄ and condensation to adamantane-like structures, finally leading to the diamond D₅ or, in general, in the design and synthesis of new strong structures, with possible applications in nanotechnology.

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