

An exciting research challenge in supramolecular chemistry is to design, synthesize, and characterize nano-sized architectures with applications in biology, chemistry, and materials science.<sup>1</sup> Predicting and designing non-covalently bound supramolecular complexes and assemblies is difficult because of the weakness of the interactions involved, thus the resulting superstructure is often a compromise between the geometrical constraints of the building blocks and the competing weak intermolecular interactions.<sup>2</sup>

Our research interest has been focused on the studies of weak non-covalent intermolecular, viz. supramolecular interactions as the driving force in self-assembly and molecular recognition, especially in the solid state by single crystal X-ray diffraction. The lecture will highlight some of our recent studies on hydrogen<sup>3</sup> and halogen<sup>4</sup> bonded systems,  $\pi$ - $\pi$ <sup>5</sup>, CH...anion<sup>6</sup>, and anion...  $\pi$ <sup>7</sup> interactions and metal ion coordination<sup>8</sup> in molecular self-assembly and molecular recognition in various systems such as resorcinarenes, ditopic receptors, rotaxanes,  $M_4L_6$  tetrahedra,  $M_8L_6$  cube, spheres, knots, etc..

#### References

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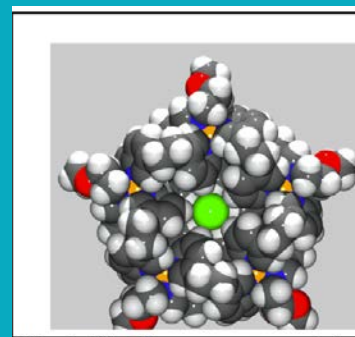


Fig. 1. The X-ray structure of the pentafoil knot. [8b]

**Seminar #2.4**  
**February 26, 2021, 11:30 am**

*Supramolecular crystallography  
(interplay of intermolecular  
interactions in the solid-state)*

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