## **Supplementary Information:**

# Contribution of the covalent component of the hydrogen-bond network to the properties of liquid water

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#### ANGULAR DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION

The distribution of HB angles ( $\phi \equiv O_{\text{ref}} \cdots O - H$ ) includes only hydrogen atoms within distance R from the reference oxygen atom and was normalized to account for the  $\phi$ -dependent volume. While this normalization is different from the one commonly used in the literature, it correctly emphasizes the energetic preference for linear HBs.

$$g_R(\phi) = \frac{n_R(\phi)}{V_R(\phi)N_R} \tag{1}$$

where  $n_R(\phi)$  is the number of HB angles in the bin between  $\phi$  and  $\phi + \Delta$ ,  $V_R(\phi)$  is the physical volume of this bin

$$V_{R}(\phi) = \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\Theta \int_{\phi}^{\phi+\Delta} \sin\phi \, d\phi \int_{0}^{R} r^{2} dr =$$

$$= \frac{2\pi R^{3}}{3} \left[ \cos(\phi) - \cos(\phi + \Delta) \right] =$$

$$= \frac{2\pi R^{3}}{3} \left[ \Delta \sin(\phi) + \frac{1}{2} \Delta^{2} \cos(\phi) + O(\Delta^{3}) \right], (2)$$

and  $N_R$  is the number of HBs in all bins.

#### DENSITY

In order to study the effect of intermolecular covalency on the density of liquid water, NPT-ensemble simulations were performed at 1 atm and 298 K with intermolecular charge transfer switched off. The average density of this system was determined to be 0.85 g·cm<sup>-3</sup>. This system is denoted the relaxed-density devalent system, and contrasted with the fixed-density ( $\rho = 0.997 \text{ g·cm}^{-3}$ ) devalent system used throughout the article.

The oxygen-oxygen and oxygen-hydrogen radial distribution functions for the fixed-density and relaxed-density systems are shown in Figure S1 for comparison. The positions of the peaks do not change significantly and the peaks become less pronounced after density relaxation.

Although the changes in the angular distribution functions are not significant either (Figure S2), the distribution of HB angles becomes narrower in the relaxed-density system. The IR spectra of the two systems are almost identical (Figure S2).

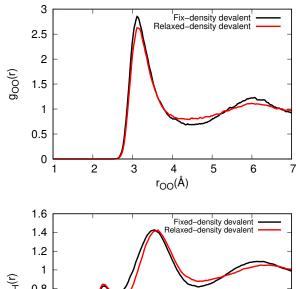


FIG. S1. Oxygen-oxygen and oxygen-hydrogen radial distribution functions for the fixed-density and relaxed-density systems.

#### DIELECTRIC CONSTANT

The dielectric constant can be calculated using the fluctuation of the total dipole moment of the system [1, 2]:

$$\epsilon = 1 + \frac{4\pi}{3Vk_BT}(\langle |\vec{M}|^2 \rangle - \langle |\vec{M}| \rangle^2)$$
 (3)

where V and  $\vec{M}$  are the volume and total dipole of the simulation box, respectively. Obtaining accurate values of  $\epsilon$  for water from ab initio molecular dynamics simulations is challenging because nanosecond-long trajectories are required to properly calculate the fluctuations of the total dipole moment in the reference model [3]. In devalent simulations, however, water molecules diffuse and rotate much faster than in the reference runs. As shown

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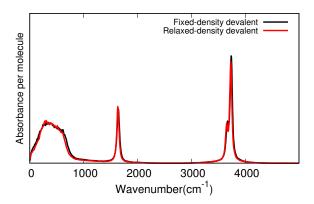


FIG. S2. IR spectra for the fixed-density and relaxed-density systems.

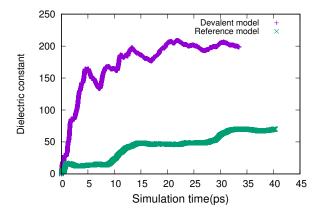


FIG. S3. Computed dielectric constant of the reference and devalent models as a function of simulation time.

in the main text, the diffusion coefficient of devalent water is approximately 7 times larger and the HB lifetime is almost one order of magnitude shorter than those of the reference model. This makes it possible to obtain reasonable estimates of  $\epsilon$  over picosecond-long trajectories [4].

The dielectric constant for the devalent model was estimated to be a remarkable 180. Figure S3 shows that this value is reasonably well-converged. This value should be compared to the dielectric constant of 70 for the reference model. While the latter value is less reliable it is in good agreement with previous *ab initio* calculations [5] and the experimental value of 78 [6].

# SELF-DIFFUSION COEFFICIENT AND SHEAR VISCOSITY

The diffusion constant for a periodic system is known to have strong dependence on the size of the simulation box L, due to the long-range drag exerted on a particle by its periodic images [7]. Fortunately, the diffusion constant in the infinitely large simulation box  $D(\infty)$  can be

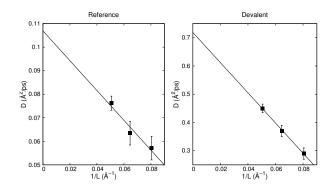


FIG. S4. Diffusion constant as a function of the system size, for 64, 125 and 256 water molecules. The square dots are from simulation and the solid line is a linear fit.

estimated from several finite-size simulations using the following well-known relation [7]:

$$D(\infty) = D(L) + \frac{k_B T \zeta}{6\pi \eta L},\tag{4}$$

where D(L) is the diffusion constant for a system of size L,  $\eta$  is the translational shear viscosity, and  $\zeta$  is a constant of 2.837. We calculated the diffusion constant  $D(\infty)$  using least squares fitting to the data obtained for systems of 64, 125, and 256 molecules (Figure S4). The viscosity is obtained via the slope of the D(L) dependence on 1/L.

#### HB LIFETIME

The continuous HB time-correlation function  $C_{\rm HB}(\tau)$  is defined as

$$C_{\rm HB}(\tau) = \frac{\sum_{ij} \langle \theta_{ij}(\tau)\theta_{ij}(0) \rangle}{\sum_{ij} \langle \theta_{ij}(0)\theta_{ij}(0) \rangle},\tag{5}$$

where the HB survival function  $\theta_{ij}(\tau)$  is equal to 1 if there is a HB formed between molecules i and j throughout the time period from t=0 to  $t=\tau$  and is otherwise equal to zero [8, 9]. In the long-time limit, the time-correlation function decays exponentially as shown in Figure S5. The HB lifetime is defined as the rate of its decay  $C_{\rm HB}(\tau) \sim e^{-\tau/\tau_{\rm HB}}$  and is computed as the slope of the logarithm of  $C_{\rm HB}(\tau)$ .

### BASIS SET DEPENDENCE OF THE RESULTS

As indicated in the Computational Methods section, the accurate separation of donor-acceptor interactions from polarization effects is verified by performing simulations with two Gaussian basis sets of different sizes. To make the test stringent, the TZV2P basis set was extended by adding a set of diffuse functions with small

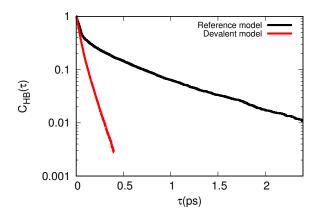


FIG. S5. HB time autocorrelation function for the reference and devalent systems.

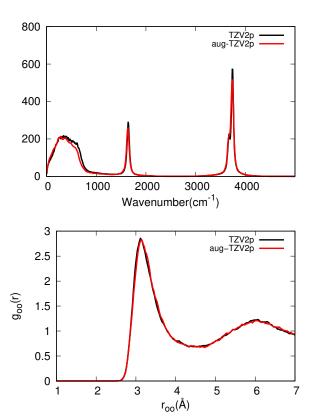


FIG. S6. IR spectra and oxygen-oxygen radial distribution functions calculated with TZV2P and aug-TZV2P basis sets.

exponents. The results of both simulations shown in Figure S6 are practically identical. This indicates that TZV2P results are sufficiently stable with respect to a moderate increase in the basis set size. For larger basis sets, the role of intermolecular covalency will be spuriously decreased.

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