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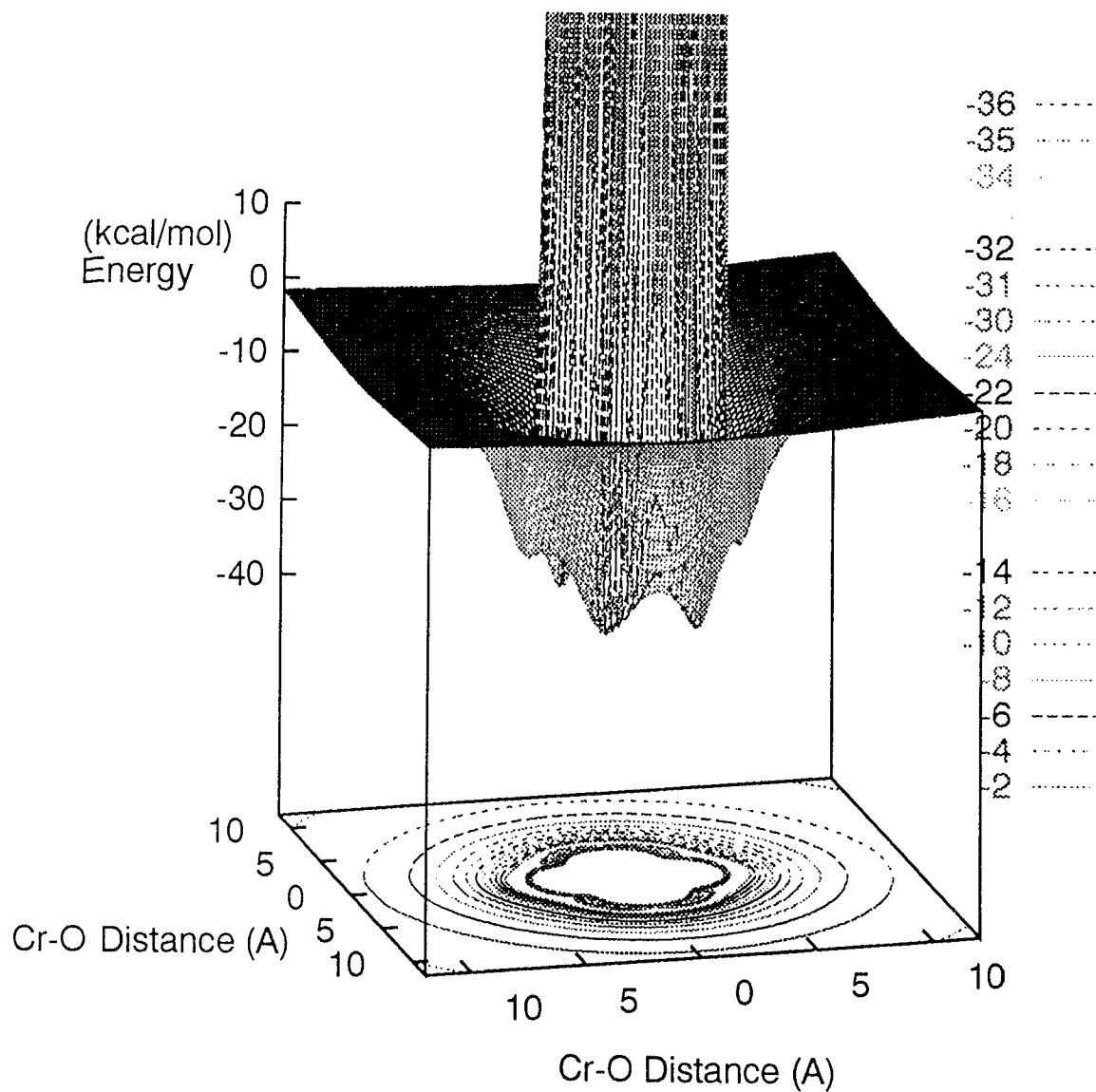
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**Figure Legends for supporting information.**

3-D and projected isoenergetic contour maps built from the fitted  $[\text{Cr}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+}\text{-H}_2\text{O}$  interaction potential. At each point the energy value corresponds to the most favorable orientation of the water molecule. ( $z=0$  is a plane containing four oxygens and the chromium cation).

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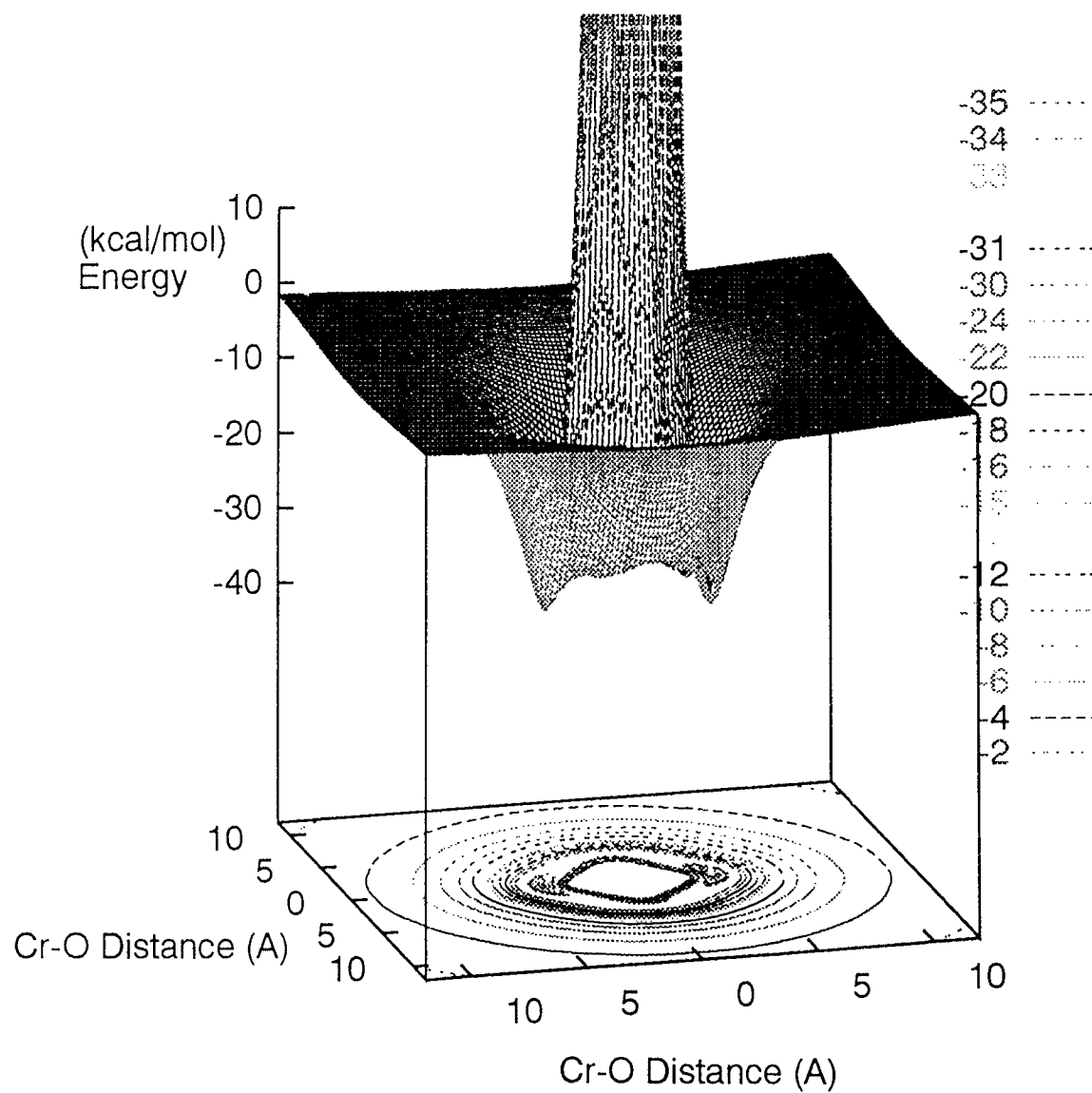
Fig.



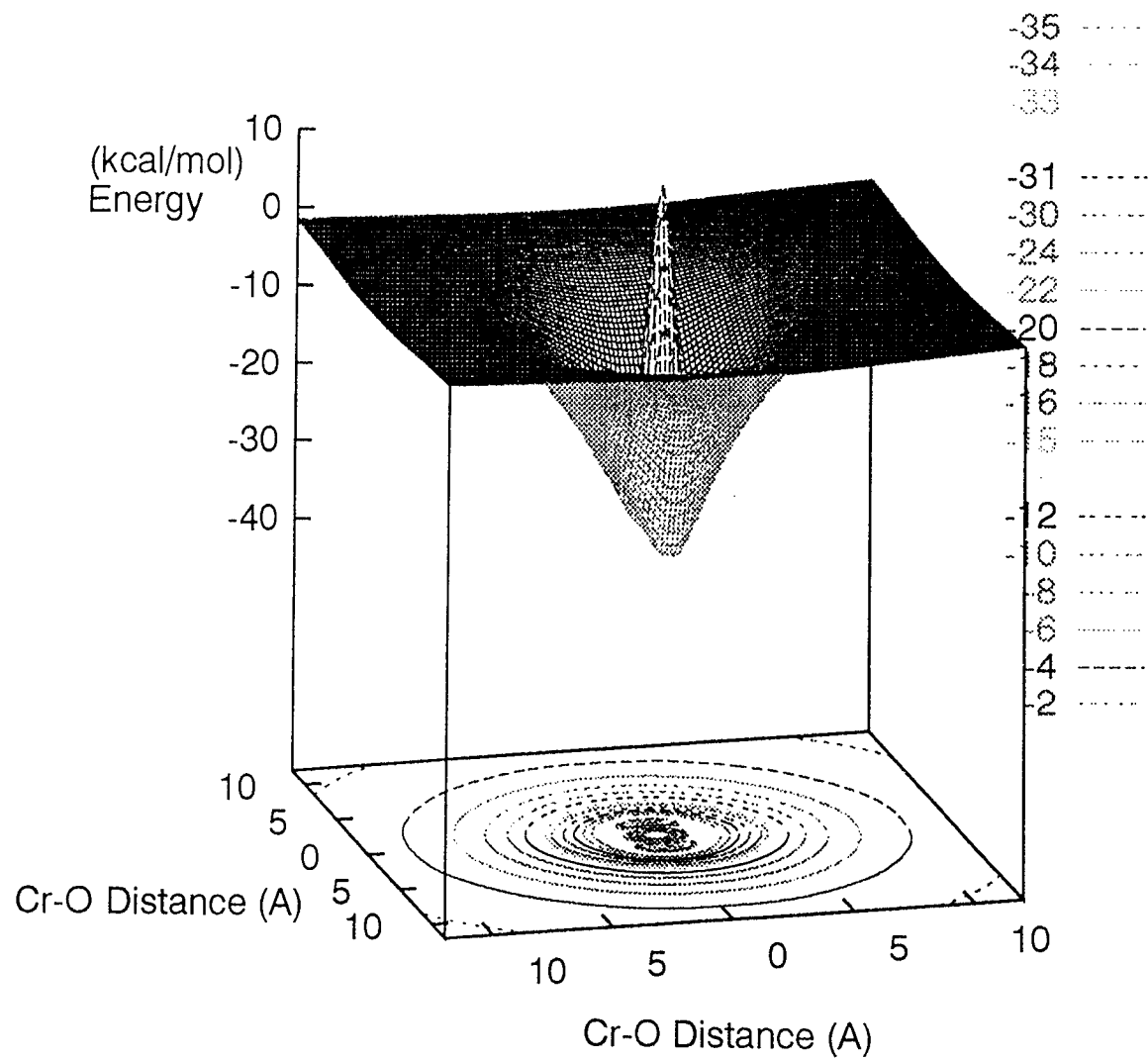
Application of the hydrated ion model  
e.g. Ba<sup>2+</sup> at 25°C

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Fig



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Hydration of the hydrated ion (crystal field stabilization energy) is not