The isolated water pentamer adopts a ring structure, with each molecule acting as a single donor and single acceptor of a hydrogen bond. The average separation between oxygen atoms (red spheres) is 2.76 angstroms. Similar water pentagons are prominent structures in the dynamic hydrogen-bonding network revealed in computer simulations of liquid water, like that depicted in the background. See page 929 in the Special Section on clusters beginning on page 920, and a related Report (page 963). [Image: Tim Robinson, Chemistry Graphics Facility, University of California, Berkeley]
Science 271 (5251), 885-1004.

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