Principles of Molecular Recognition

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General information

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- Lectures are available at: <u>http://http://chembiol.ttk.mta.hu/education.html</u>
- Oral exam (officially January 28, 2015 upon arrangement)

Useful literature

- Lakowicz, Joseph: Principles of fluorescence spectrosopy
- Valeur, Bernard: Molecular fluorescence
- Wang, Anslyn: Chemosensors

Chemosensing, chemosensors

- Field of chemosensing is rapidly growing
- Medical diagnostics, environmental monitoring, toxicological analysis, forensics, cell biology, biochemistry etc.
- Chemosensing is interdisciplinary (e.g. chemistry, physics, biology)
- Supramolecular chemistry mainly non-covalent interactions

Sensors - chemsensors

• Sensor in analytical chemistry: a chemical indicator in an instrument that produces signal indicative of the presence of an analyte

 Sensor in supramolecular chemistry: is a host molecule (receptor) that changes color, emission, redox potential etc. upon binding of an analyte (quantification still requires instrumentation)

Chemsensor modules

- Receptor (Host): recognizes the analyte (Guest) – synthetic receptors - design, creation (chemistry)
- **Transducer**: linker (transfers the changes)
- Signaling unit: produces signal upon guest induced changes (physics)

Molecular recognition

- Receptor analyte interaction (Host-guest)
- Reversibility / reusability is of utmost importance
- Interactions work together to form stable intramolecular / intermolecular configurations
- Mostly noncovalent forces (but: sugars boronic acids)

Governing forces in supramolecular chemistry

- van der Waals interactions
- Ionic interactions
- Hydrogen bond
- π -cation interaction
- Metal chelation
- Covalent interaction

van der Waals Interactions

- Weakest, but can be predominant in aqueous media
- A collective term for noncovalent forces, inversely proportional to the inverse of the sixth power of separation
- Formerly, used interchangeably with London forces
- Van der Waals: London, Debye, Keesom) sum of attractive and repulsive interactions

van der Waals Interactions

- E ~ 1 / r⁶
- Dipole dipole interactions of freely rotating dipoles (orientational force, Keesom force)
- Dipole induced dipole (induction force, Debye force)
 - A nonpolar and a polar molecule with permanent dipole

van der Waals Interactions

- Induced dipole induced dipole (London forces, dispersion forces)
 - Present in all atoms and molecules
 - Due to the presence of instantaneous dipoles
 - One instantaneous dipole induces the other
 - Can be attractive or repulsive

Cation – π interactions

- A cation and an aromatic π electron cloud
- In the gas phase mainly electrostatic interaction
- In the solution phase electrostatic + dispersion and inductive forces (London and Debye) also important
- In nature (e.g. Lys-Trp, Arg-Phe etc.)

Hydrogen bond

- Strongest secondary interaction
- Strongly polarized H-atom (H-donor)
- Lone pairs of N, F, O (H-acceptor)
- Residual positive and negative charges
- Reasons to form (electrostatic, or covalent bond??)

Hydrophobic effect – a disputed phenomena

- Interaction of non-polar moieties in water
- Formation of water-water interactions (strong H-bond) at the expense of weak water-nonpolar interaction (∠H-favored)
- Oriented H-bonds (⊿S-disfavored)
- Although: removal of non-polar from water and water released to the bulk is ⊿S favored (less ordered)

Ionic interactions

- Classical electronic (Coulombic) interaction
 - Classical ionic
 - Salt bridges (balancing of electrostatic forces between three or more entities)
 - -E.g. Asp-Lys-Glu (COO⁻ NH3⁺ COO⁻)

Covalent interactions

- Restricted to a few special reversible reactions
- Strong affinity
- In aqueous solutions
- Intrinsic functional group selectivity

- Boronic acids have strong affinity to Lewis bases
 - Diols (sugars)
 - Aminoalcohols
 - Hydroxy acids
 - Amino acids
 - Alcohols
 - Fluoride, cyanide

- Special electronic features
- Boron has an open shell with 3 valence electrons in trigonal form (sp² hybridized + empty p orbital)
- Lewis acidic properties (can bind Lewis bases / nucleophiles)
- Several factors affect affinity

- Small O-C-C-O dihedral angle
- Low pKa of the diol and boronic acid favor binding at neutral pH
- pKa effect is not unidirectional (bell shaped relationship between the diol and the boronic acid) ~ between the pKa of the two
- Combined effect of pKa and diehdral angle : catechol > *cis*-diols on five membered rings > linear diols > *cis*-diols on six membered rings
- Strong B-O bond is formed (rehybridizes to sp³)



Metal chelation chemistry

- Metal coordination to the host framework
- Binding affinity of host (ligand) towards analyte
- Principles of metal chelation
 - Hard-soft acid-base concept (HSAB)
 - Hard and soft refer to polarizability of LA-LB pairs associated through dative bonds
 - Hard acids prefer hard bases, soft bases prefer soft acids
 - E.g. alkali, alkali earth metals prefer O, amine, amide N; late transition metals prefer imine N, and S donors

Ligands (Hosts)

- Ligands are classified by the number of coordinating (donor) atoms
- E.g. bidentate ligand (bite angle, chelate ring -5 or 6 membered (less torsion))
- Chelates of higher denticity
 - By linear repetition of bidentate motifs
 - Branching from common bridgehead atom
- Chelate effect: refers to the enhanced stability of metal complexes of multidentate ligands as compared to those of monodentate ligands

The macrocyclic effect

- Increasing denticity with proper bite angle enhances stability of the complex
- Preorganized cyclic ligands have stronger binding affinity than acyclic ligands (Entropy)



1 + Ni(II) \longrightarrow [Ni(1)]²⁺ logK = 22.2; Δ H = -24.1 kcal/mol; Δ S = +21cal/K/mol 2 + Ni(II) \longrightarrow [Ni(2)]²⁺ logK = 16.1; Δ H = -17.9 kcaklmol; Δ S = +15cal/K/mol

The macrocyclic effect

- Ion-cavity concept : complementarity between host cavity and metal ion size
- Rule of three (three-point binding)
- E.g. 18-crown-6 ether binds K⁺ the best



The macrocyclic effect

- Deviation from this for cyclenes
- E.g. cyclen binds larger metal ions better than cyclam



Preorganization of donor atoms

- Binding is more favorable when ground-state conformation of the ligand resembles that in the complex
- Restricted torsional motions facilitates appropriate conformations
- Enthalpy vs. entropy



Examples for receptors (ligands, hosts)



Cu(II) and Co(II) binding ligands (Hard)



Changing donor atoms...



Neutral imine: Borderline hard/soft



Zn(II)

Acyclic multidentate ligands

Wrap around the metal

Zn(II)



Less selective for size

Pb(II)

1:1 with **38** 2:1 with **39**



Soft binders

Ag(I) and Hg(II)





Tetrapeptide motif

Pb(II)

Cu(II)







DPA. 47









53

Zn(II); Cd(II) mainly

TPA, 48

52

56



50











fluorescein, 60

Zn(II) binders



61



Hg(II) binders



Mg(II); Ca(II) binders



Ca(II) binders



Zn(II) chelators





Macrocyclic ligands: lariat ethers

Lariat aza-crowns (Hg(II), Mg(II), Pb(II) chelators



Stoichiometry vs. Cavity size

1:2 with 12-crown-4

1:2 with15-crown- 5

1:2 with 18-crown-6



Changing donor atoms



Lanthanide (III) binders

