

FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLIED STUDIES OF THE STRUCTURES
AND REACTION DYNAMICS OF BIOMOLECULES USING MASS
SPECTROMETRY AND ION MOBILITY SPECTROMETRY

Thesis by

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To my parents, grandmother, and big brother.

Especially to my wife.

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I thank Isik, Luther, Paul, and God.

And special thanks to Jack.

Abstract

Chapter 1 reviews studies of non-covalently bound metal complexes related to the structures and reactions of biomolecules in the gas phase, chapter 2 introduces the Route 66 method for identifying disulfide linkages in peptides using mass spectrometry. Collisional activation of singly charged cationic alkali and alkaline earth metal complexes of peptides with disulfide linkages results in highly selective elimination of hydrogen disulfide (H_2S_2). Further activation of the product yields amino acid sequence information in the region previously short-circuited by the disulfide bond. In chapter 3, we demonstrate applications of this methodology by identifying three disulfide linkages in insulin with a peptic digest using the Route 66 method. In chapters 4 and 5, gas phase reactions triggered by the bimolecular collision of a water molecule with collisionally activated anionic and cationic sodiated dicarboxylic acid clusters are examined. The water molecule serves as a proton donor for a dicarboxylate anion in the cluster and introduces energetically favorable dissociation pathways, such as the decomposition of the malonate ion, to yield an acetate ion and CO_2 .

To further explore the utility of IMS in the identification of organic compounds on other planetary bodies, pursuant to NASA objectives, ion mobilities are investigated for different classes of biomolecules. Chapters 6 and 7 report the reduced ion

mobilities of protonated amino acid cations and deprotoanted carboxylate anions, respectively, determined in both N₂ and CO₂ drift gases. A 12-4 potential model for the ion-neutral interaction is used to investigate the high correlation observed between masses and mobilities of the ions. Computational analysis employing a 12-4 model supports ring conformations for multicarboxylate anions consistent with higher ion mobility values than calculated for extended structures. In Chapter 8, the ion mobilities of tertiary and quaternary ammonium cations in N₂ are reported along with their high mass-mobility correlation. We also detail the sensitivity of the collision cross sections of molecular ions to the ion-neutral interactions using the classical ion-neutral collision model and the computational trajectory method. The shape asymmetry of the ammonium cations plays an important role in determining the observed correlation between mass and mobility.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	iv
Abstract	v
1 Introduction	1-1
1.1 Background.....	1-1
1.2 Content of Theis.....	1-5
1.2.1. Metal Complexes of Biomolecules.....	1-5
1.2.2. Mass-Mobility Correlation and Gas Phase Structures of Biomolecules.....	1-7
1.3 Conclusion.....	1-9
1.4 References.....	1-10
2 Identifying the Presence of a Disulfide Linkage in Peptides by the Selective Elimination of Hydrogen Disulfide from Collisionally Activated Alkali and Alkaline Earth Metal Complexes	2-1
2.1 Abstract.....	2-1
2.2 Introduction.....	2-2
2.3 Experimental.....	2-7
2.4 Results.....	2-9
2.4.1 Sodiated Cystine Cation.....	2-9
2.4.2 Metal Complexes of MP1.....	2-13
2.4.3 Metal Complexes of MP2.....	2-16
2.4.4 Metal Complexes of LVP and OT.....	2-24
2.4.5 Sodiated Peptides from Pepsin Digest of Insulin.....	2-28
2.5 Discussion.....	2-34
2.5.1 Selective S-C bond Cleavage Processes Involving Sodiated Cystine.....	2-34
2.5.2 Selective S-C bond Cleavage Processes Involving Metal Complexes of Model Peptides.....	2-38
2.5.3 Selective Elimination of H ₂ S ₂ from Metal Complexes of Peptides Containing an Intramolecular Disulfide Linkage	2-41

2.5.4	Identifying a Disulfide Linkage using Selective Elimination of H ₂ S ₂ from Sodium Complexes of Peptides Generated from a Pepsin Digest of Insulin.....	2-44
2.6	Conclusion.....	2-45
2.7	Acknowledgement.....	2-46
2.8	References.....	2-47
3	Mapping Disulfide Bonds in Insulin with the Route 66 Method: Selective Cleavage of S-C bonds using Alkali and Alkaline Earth Metal Enolate Complexes	3-1
3.1	Abstract.....	3-1
3.2	Introduction.....	3-2
3.3	Experimental.....	3-5
3.4	Results and Discussion.....	3-7
3.4.1	Low Energy CID of Metal Complexes of MP2.....	3-7
3.4.2	Low Energy CID of Metal Complexes of the Pepsin Digest of Insulin.....	3-10
3.4.2.1	Singly Charged Sodiated Peptides from Pepsin Digest of Insulin.....	3-10
3.4.2.2	Doubly Charged Sodiated Peptides from Pepsin Digest of Insulin.....	3-14
3.4.2.3	Doubly Charged Calcium Complexes of Peptides from Pepsin Digest of Insulin.....	3-17
3.4.2.4	Doubly Charged Dicalcium Complex of YQLENYCN/LVCGERGFF.....	3-18
3.4.2.5	Doubly Charged Dicalcium Complex of GIVEQCCASVSL/FVNQHLCGSHL.....	3-22
3.4.2.6	Doubly Charged Dicalcium Complex of GIVEQCCASVSL/FVNQHLCGSHLVE.....	3-26
3.4.3	Selective S-C bond Cleavage Processes Involving Enolate at Cys.....	3-30
3.4.4	The Route 66 Method for Locating Disulfide Linkages in Peptides.....	3-34
3.5	Conclusion.....	3-36
3.6	Acknowledgement.....	3-37
3.7	References.....	3-38

4 Cluster Phase Chemistry: Gas Phase Reactions of Anionic Sodium Salts Of Dicarboxylic Acid Clusters with Water Molecules	4-1
4.1 Abstract.....	4-1
4.2 Introduction.....	4-2
4.3 Experimental.....	4-6
4.4 Results and Discussion.....	4-7
4.4.1 Cluster Formation and Reactions.....	4-8
4.4.1.1 Malonic Acid (C3).....	4-8
4.4.1.2 Oxalic Acid (C2).....	4-15
4.4.1.3 Longer Dicarboxylic Acids (C4-C6).....	4-21
4.4.2 Theoretical Results.....	4-26
4.4.2.1 Malonic Acid (C3).....	4-26
4.4.2.2 Oxalic Acid (C2).....	4-32
4.4.2.3 Longer Dicarboxylic Acids (C4-C6).....	4-32
4.5 Conclusion.....	4-35
4.6 Acknowledgement.....	4-36
4.7 References.....	4-37
5 Cluster Phase Chemistry: Collisions of vibrationally Excited Cationic Dicarboxylic Acid Clusters with Water Molecules Initiate Dissociation of Cluster Components	5-1
5.1 Abstract.....	5-1
5.2 Introduction.....	5-2
5.3 Experimental.....	5-4
5.4 Results and Discussion.....	5-6
5.4.1 Proton-Free Sodiated Dicarboxylate Clusters.....	5-6
5.4.1.1 Sodiated Dicarboxylate Monomers.....	5-12
5.4.1.2 Oxalic Acid (C2).....	5-15
5.4.1.3 Malonic Acid (C3).....	5-21
5.4.1.4 Longer Dicarboxylic Acids (C4-C6).....	5-22
5.4.2 Sodiated Hydrogen Dicarboxylate Clusters.....	5-22
5.4.2.1 Oxalic Acid (C3) and Malonic Acid (C4).....	5-22
5.4.2.2 Succinic Acid (C4).....	5-29
5.4.3 Sodiated Mixed Dicarboxylate Clusters.....	5-29
5.4.4 Theoretical Results.....	5-33
5.4.4.1 Sodiated Dicarboxylate Monomers.....	5-34
5.4.4.2 Proton-Free Sodiated Dicarboxylate Clusters..	5-34

5.4.4.3	Sodiated Mixed Dicarboxylate Clusters.....	5-41
5.5	Conclusion.....	5-50
5.6	Acknowledgement.....	5-51
5.7	References.....	5-52
6	Electrospray Ionization Ion Mobility Spectrometry of Amino Acids: Ion Mobilities and Mass-Mobility Correlation	6-1
6.1	Abstract.....	6-1
6.2	Introduction.....	6-1
6.3	Experimental.....	6-4
6.4	Modeling.....	6-7
6.4.1	Theoretical Approach.....	6-8
6.4.2	The Amino Acid Data Sample.....	6-13
6.4.3	Fitting Procedure.....	6-15
6.5	Results and Discussion.....	6-19
6.6	Conclusion.....	6-38
6.7	Acknowledgement.....	6-39
6.8	References.....	6-40
7	Electrospray Ionization Ion Mobility Spectrometry of Carboxylate Anions: Ion Mobility and a Mass-Mobility Correlation	7-1
7.1	Abstract.....	7-1
7.2	Introduction.....	7-2
7.3	Experimental.....	7-4
7.4	Modeling: Theoretical Approach and Fitting Procedure.....	7-8
7.5	Computational Method.....	7-10
7.6	Results and Discussion.....	7-14
7.7	Conclusion.....	7-30
7.8	Acknowledgement.....	7-30
7.9	References.....	7-31
8	Experimental and Theoretical Investigation into the Correlation between Mass and Ion Mobility for Choline and Other Ammonium Cations in N₂	8-1
8.1	Abstract.....	8-1

8.2	Introduction.....	8-2
8.3	Experimental.....	8-5
8.3.1	Chemicals and Reagents.....	8-5
8.3.2	Electrospray Ionization Ion Mobility Spectrometer.....	8-6
8.3.3	Computational Modeling.....	8-7
8.4	Results.....	8-9
8.4.1	Mass-Mobility Correlation of Ammonium Cations.....	8-9
8.4.2	Tertiary and Quaternary Ammonium Cations with Similar Molecular Weights.....	8-14
8.4.3	Functional Group Isomers of Ammonium Cations.....	8-14
8.4.4	Collision Cross Sections of Ions in N ₂ via the Trajectory Method.....	8-17
8.5	Discussion.....	8-17
8.5.1	Classical Ion-Neutral Collision Model.....	8-17
8.5.2	Computational Trajectory Method.....	8-20
8.5.3	Ion-Quadrupole Potential.....	8-22
8.5.4	Ion-Induced Dipole Potential.....	8-25
8.5.5	Van der Waals Potential.....	8-25
8.5.6	Mass-Mobility Correlation.....	8-28
8.6	Conclusions.....	8-33
8.7	Acknowledgement.....	8-34
8.8	References.....	8-36