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## Core-ionized and core-excited states of macromolecules

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March 2, 2007

## Core Electron Binding Energies (CEBEs)

- Useful tools to obtain information on the structure and on the nature of molecules<sup>a</sup>
- Experimental studies on macromolecules<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Schwarz et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 1974, 13, 454.

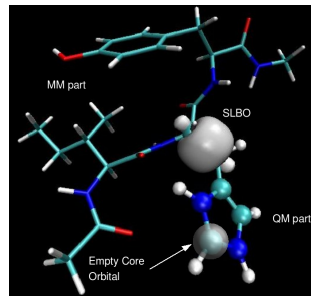
<sup>b</sup>see for example : Gordon et al. J. Phys. Chem. A 2003, 107, 8512.

## Theoretical Study

- Excited States  $\implies$  variational collapse and orthogonality constraint<sup>a</sup>
- Macromolecular systems  $\implies$  QM/MM within the LSCF method<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Ferré et al. J. Chem. Phys. 2002, 117, 4119.

<sup>b</sup>Assfeld et al. Chem. Phys. Lett. 1996, 263, 100.

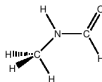
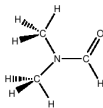
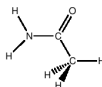


## Core-ionized states of the peptide bond: C 1s CEBEs

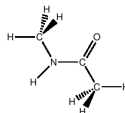
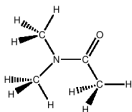
PBE0/6-311++G\*\*//B3LYP/6-311++G\*\*



Formamide

*trans* N-Methyl-formamide*cis* N-Methyl-formamide*N,N*-Dimethyl-formamide

Acetamide

*N*-Methyl-acetamide*N,N*-Dimethyl-acetamide

Atom Label

$C_{carb}$  Formamide

- Exp.<sup>a</sup>: 294.45 eV
- Ref.<sup>b</sup>: 294.16 eV (+0.29)
- This work: 294.41 eV (+0.04)

<sup>a</sup>Joly et al. J. Atomic Data and Nuclear Data Tables, 1984, 31, 433.

<sup>b</sup>Chong et al. J. Phys. Chem. A 2002, 106, 356.

 $C_{carb}, C_{R2}, C_{R3}$ 

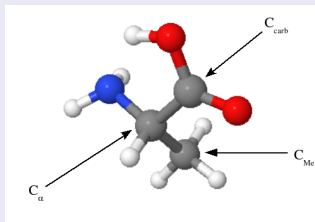
## N,N-dimethylformamide

- Exp.: 293.45, 292.03, 292.03 eV
- Ref.: 293.25(+0.20), 291.92(+0.11), 292.27(-0.24) eV
- This work: 293.52(-0.07), 291.86(+0.17), 292.24(-0.21) eV

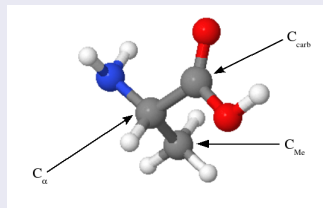
## Maximum deviation Theory vs Theory &amp; Exp. vs Theories

- Ref.-This work:  $\simeq 0.3$  eV
- Exp.-This work:  $\simeq 0.2$  eV
  - Exp.-Ref.:  $\simeq 0.2$  eV

$\Rightarrow$  Accurate carbon 1s ionization energies w.r.t Theory and Exp.

Conformations:  $\Delta E < 1$  kcal/mol

(a) Conf. 1

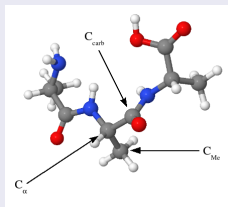
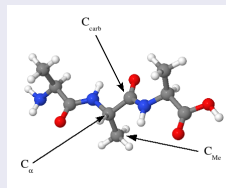


(b) Conf. 2

## Alanine CEBEs (eV)

|              | conf. 1       | conf. 2       | Exp. <sup>a</sup> |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| $C_{\alpha}$ | 292.45(-0.15) | 292.16(+0.14) | 292.30            |
| $C_{carb}$   | 294.60(+0.70) | 294.92(+0.38) | 295.30            |
| $C_{Me}$     | 291.11(+0.09) | 290.89(+0.31) | 291.20            |

<sup>a</sup>Powis et al. J. Phys. Chem. A 2003, 107, 25.

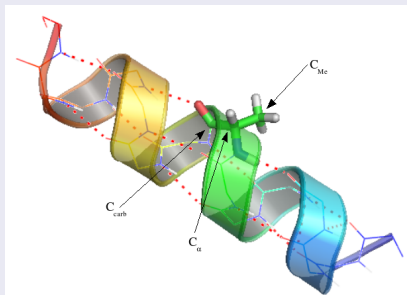
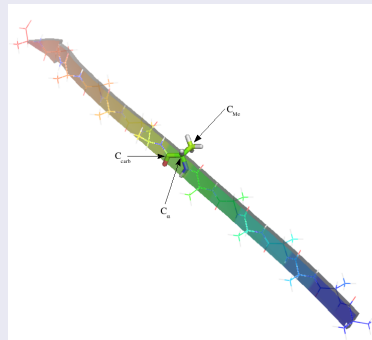
Ala-Tripeptide:  $\alpha$ -helix and  $\beta$ -sheet conformations(c)  $\alpha$ -helix(d)  $\beta$ -sheet

## Ala-Tripeptide CEBEs (eV)

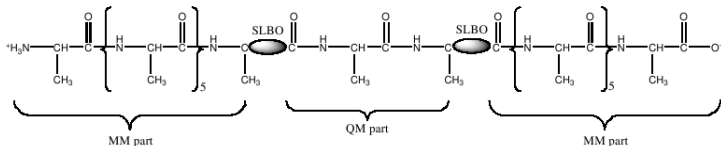
|              | $\alpha$ -helix | $\beta$ -sheet      |                            |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| $C_{\alpha}$ | 291.87          | 292.00              | $\simeq 0.3\text{-}0.4$ eV |
| $C_{carb}$   | 293.69          | 293.87 <sup>a</sup> | $\simeq 2.0$ eV            |
| $C_{Me}$     | 290.50          | 290.62              | $\simeq 0.3\text{-}0.4$ eV |

<sup>a</sup> $C_{carb}$  N-methylacetamide 293.37 eV

## poly-Ala-pentadecapeptide

(e)  $\alpha$ -helix(f)  $\beta$ -sheet

## QM/MM partition of the poly-Ala-pentadecapeptide



## Pentadecapeptide CEBEs (eV)

|              | PBE0/Amber      |                | PBE0/Amber* <sup>a</sup> |                |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
|              | $\alpha$ -helix | $\beta$ -sheet | $\alpha$ -helix          | $\beta$ -sheet |
| $C_{\alpha}$ | -0.26           | -0.62          | +0.05                    | +0.08          |
| $C_{carb}$   | -0.09           | -0.76          | +0.63                    | +0.23          |
| $C_{Me}$     | -0.71           | -0.32          | +0.47                    | +0.11          |

<sup>a</sup>The Amber\* calculations are performed excluding the electrostatic polarization of the wave function by the classical point charges



## Conclusions

- Orthogonality between GS and ES
- Accurate carbon 1s ionization energies :  
PBE0/6-311++G\*\*//B3LYP/6-311++G\*\* + Boys-Foster CO
- Carbon 1s ionization energies sensible to:
  - Chemical shift (closest surroundings)
  - Polarization (long-range interactions) 0.2-1.0 eV

## Outlooks

Extension to the innershell absorption spectra

- Most common proteinogenic  $\alpha$ -amino acids
- Experimental NEXAFS spectra available  
Kaznatcheyev et al. J. Phys. Chem. A, 2002, 106, 3153  
Zubavichus et al. J. Phys. Chem. A, 2005, 109, 6998
- Real biological systems: enzymes, proteins, RNA or DNA