

all play. Although we are all using the same ball, confusion reigns because we each play the game according to our own set of rules. A good chemical model requires well defined concepts that lead to quantitative predictions. The ionic model meets these criteria. The electroneutrality rule (the sum of all atomic valences in a compound is zero) is the only assumption the model makes and it applies to all compounds that obey this rule (mostly inorganic compounds, but also aqueous chemistry, hence much of biological chemistry). From the Coulomb field of the ionic model one can derive rigorous concepts of atom, bond, atomic valence, bond valence and electronegativity as well as Lewis acid and base strength. The result is a predictive model expressed in terms of the familiar chemical concept of localized bonds linking nearest-neighbour atoms.

Keywords: bonding, ionic model, bond valence model

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Structure of KTP crystals grown by top-seeded solution and spontaneous flux crystallization methods

Natalia E. Novikova¹, Igor A. Verin¹, Natalia I. Sorokina¹, Olga A. Alekseeva¹, Valentina I. Voronkova², Ekaterina I. Agapova²
¹Institute of Crystallography RAS, Leninsky prospect, 59, Moscow, Moscow, 119333, Russia, ²Moscow State University, Vorobievsky Gory, Moscow, 119991, Russia, E-mail: natnov@ns.crys.ras.ru

Crystals of the potassium titanyl phosphate KTiOPO_4 (KTP) family are under investigation for number years because of their application in nonlinear optics. X-Ray study of KTP single crystals grown by the top-seeded solution and spontaneous flux crystallization methods was made to evaluate the influence of growth conditions on the crystal structure and to use these results for further investigations of the structure of KTP crystals doped by isovalent and heterovalent impurities. X-Ray measurements were performed at room temperature using the four-circle CAD-4F Enraf Nonius diffractometer for the half of the sphere of reciprocal space up to $(\sin\theta/\lambda)_{\text{max}}=1.22$. Both structures were refined using the JANA2000 program up to $R=0.013$, $R_w=0.021$ for the case of the top-seeded solution method and up to $R=0.017$, $R_w=0.025$ for the case of the spontaneous flux crystallization. It was established that the electron structure of KTP crystals grown by these two methods was related with the defect structure of these crystals. The greater number of defects is shown to be formed in crystals grown by the spontaneous flux crystallization method. At the same time the similarity of potassium sublattice disordering, of cell parameters and of middle interatomic distances in structures is observed. The work was done with the partial support of the Grant for the leading scientific schools NSh-2192.2008.5 and the "Russian Science Support Foundation".

Keywords: structure and charge-density analysis, structure-properties relationships, nonlinear optical materials

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Anomalous SAXS for the morphology and metal content of a metallothionein in a metal-atom replacement

U-Ser Jeng¹, Meiyi Li^{2,3}, I-Jui Hsu⁴, Yu-Shan Huang¹, YewChung Sermon Wu³, Ying-Huang Lai⁵, Chio-Hun Su¹
¹National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center, Research division, 101 Hsin-Ann Road, Hsinchu Science Park., Hsinchu, Taiwan, 30076, Taiwan, ²National Nano Device Laboratories, 30076, Hsinchu, Taiwan,

³Department of Materials Science and Engineering, National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu 30076, Taiwan, ⁴Department of Chemistry, National Taiwan University, Taipei, 106, Taiwan, ⁵Department of Chemistry, Tunghai University, Taichung, 407, Taiwan, E-mail: usjeng@nsrrc.org.tw

Metallothioneins (MTs) are cysteine-rich proteins that have a high affinity with heavy metal ions. In this study, a protein unfolding-refolding process is developed to replace the metal atoms of cadmium-zinc MTs by Cu(I) or Cu(II). Using small angle X-ray scattering (SAXS) and anomalous SAXS, we have studied the changes of morphology and metal content of the MT in the designated metal-atom replacement process. The SAXS results reveal that the Cd-Zn MT has a rod-like shape and a radius of gyration $R_g = 26 \text{ \AA}$; in the solution of 4 M urea and 0.1 M β -ME, the protein is unfolded and the metal atoms are stripped from the protein, leading to a smaller R_g of 22 \AA . With the unfolding environment replaced by a solution rich in Cu(I), the modified MT cannot correctly refold, but forms oligomers of a rod-like shape with a much larger R_g value of 42 \AA ; when the refolding process proceeds with Cu(II), the modified MT can closely refold to the native morphology of the wild-type Cd-Zn MT. Anomalous SAXS, with the X-ray energy tuned close to the K-edge absorption of Cu, clearly indicates that the refolded MT contains Cu atoms after the refolding process. From the decrease of the ASAXS intensity, we have estimated the copper content in the modified Cu-MT. Dummy residue simulation is used to approximate the unfolded and refolded protein morphologies from the SAXS data. The Cu-S bonding observed in the X-ray absorption at the Cu K-edge and UV-VIS absorption spectra indicates clearly that Cu atoms occupy the original metal sites of the MT after the metal-atom replacement process. Corresponding changes in the circular dichroism of the MT due to the metal-atom replacement are also observed. The different influences of Cu(I) and Cu(II) in the refolding of the MT are discussed.

Keywords: anomalous SAXS, metallothionein, metal atom replacement

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Synchrotron SAXS reveals structural organization of iron oxide nanoparticles in aqueous solutions

Eleonora V. Shtykova¹, Peter V. Konarev^{1,3}, Lyudmila M. Bronstein², Dmitri I. Svergun^{1,3}

¹Institute of Crystallography, Russian Academy of Sciences, Laboratory of small-angle X-ray scattering, Leninsky prospect, 59, Moscow, Russian Federation, 119333, Russia, ²Indiana University, Department of Chemistry, 800 E. Kirkwood Av., Bloomington, IN 47405, USA, ³EMBL, Hamburg Outstation, Notkestraße 85, D-22603 Hamburg, Germany, E-mail: viwopix@yahoo.co.uk

Iron oxide particles prepared in docosane (DOC7-PEG-PL) and octadecane OC11-PEG-PL [1] and covered with PEGylated phospholipids to make them water soluble were analyzed by small-angle X-ray scattering (SAXS). The low-resolution structures of the iron oxide cores were reconstructed *ab initio* using DAMMIN [2]. Typical shapes of the DOC7-PEG-PL (a) and OC11-PEG-PL (b) cores (inserts in Figure) yield good fits to the experimental data (curves 3). The density of the iron core of the DOC7-PEG-PL nanoparticles decreases from the center to periphery, whereas the OC11-PEG-PL sample displays a double layered structure. These differences are related to the dissimilarity of the magnetic properties of the specimens. The nanoparticles were found to form clusters containing 3-4 densely packed cores due to magnetic interactions, and their spatial organization was analyzed by the program SASREF

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Keywords: SAXS, structures of metalloorganic complexes, nanotechnology

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Drastic modulation of solid-state luminescence derived from molecular arrangement of organic salts

Tomoaki Hinoue, Norimitsu Tohnai, Ichiro Hisaki, Mikiji Miyata
 Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University, Department of Material and Life Science, 2-1 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka, 565-0871, Japan, E-mail: koriki@molrec.mls.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp

Polycyclic p-conjugated molecules, such as anthracene and pyrene, are employed in many systems owing to their electro- and photophysical properties. Their properties in solid state depend not only on the molecular structure but on the molecular arrangements. As for the photoluminescent properties, there are several reports on the relationships with molecular arrangements. However, the relationships have not been elucidated exactly and therefore further study is necessary for the application to the development of sophisticated organic devices. Here, we present drastic modulation of luminescent color triggered by change of the anthracene arrangement of ammonium anthracene-1,8-disulfonate. The organic salts gave seven kinds of anthracene arrangements depending on the amine of the salts. Alkyl chain of n-butylamine surround anthracene moieties, resulting in blue luminescence attributed to monomer emission. Whereas, s-butylamine afforded formation of dimer pairs and contact of the pairs, resulting in orange luminescence attributed to excimer emission. Up to 150 nm of red shift depending on anthracene arrangements was achieved.

Keywords: organic crystals, luminescence, properties and structure relationships

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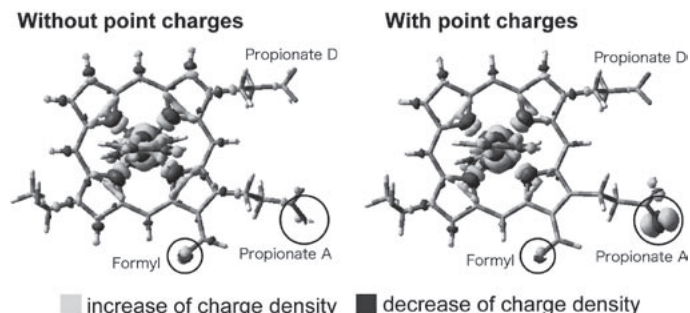
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Electronic structures of heme a of cytochrome c oxidase in the redox states

Yu Takano, Haruki Nakamura
 Institute for Protein Research, Osaka University, 3-2 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka, 565-0871, Japan, E-mail: ytakano@protein.osaka-u.ac.jp

The electronic structures of heme a of cytochrome c oxidase in the redox states have been investigated by using the UB3LYP method. Heme a is involved in not only electron transfer process but also in proton translocation process, which has recently been proposed by using X-ray structures at high resolution. We found that the most stable electronic configurations of the d electrons of the Fe ion were determined by the orbital interactions with the p orbitals of the porphyrin ring and the His residues. The redox reaction of the Fe ion influences the charge density on the peripheral parts of heme a, such as formyl and propionate groups, through the pi conjugation of the porphyrin ring and the orbital interaction with the sigma* orbital

of the C-C bond of the propionate group. The point charge model implies that electric field generated by surrounding protein enhances the charge transfer from Fe ion to the propionate group. The atomic charge differences of these groups are insensitive to distortion of the porphyrin ring, implying that heme a could be a "flexible electron mediator". The present results show why heme is ubiquitous in the biological systems.



Keywords: heme proteins, density functional theory, cytochrome oxidase

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Functional annotation by sequence-weighted structural alignments

Daron M Standley^{1,2}, Akira R Kinjo^{1,2}, Haruki Nakamura^{1,2}
¹Osaka University, MEI Center, 3-2 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka, 565-0871, Japan, ²Protein Data Bank Japan, E-mail: standley@protein.osaka-u.ac.jp

A method to functionally annotate "hypothetical" proteins, based on a novel structural alignment scoring function, is introduced. In the proposed method, position specific scoring matrices are used to weight structurally aligned residue pairs, highlighting evolutionarily conserved motifs. The functional form of the score is first optimized for discriminating domains belonging to the same Pfam family from domains belonging to different families but the same CATH or SCOP superfamily. The alignment method is next applied to the task of functionally annotating 230 query proteins released to the public as part of the Protein 3000 structural genomics project in Japan. Of these queries, 49 were found to match distantly related templates (seq ID < 30%). Within this group, the template predicted by our method to be the closest functional relative was often not the most structurally similar. Nevertheless, in a number of cases, the scoring function was able to identify key residues in the query that are likely to be involved in biochemical function. Several such nontrivial cases are discussed in detail.

Keywords: structural genomics, position-specific scoring matrix, maximum substitution probability

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Formation of ϵ -martensite (ϵ -Fe) in stainless steels

Ping Liu
 Sandvik Materials Technology, Mechanical Metallurgy, Sandvik Materials Technology, 45-SFCF, Sandviken, SE-811 81, Sweden, E-mail: ping.liu@sandvik.com

ϵ -martensite (ϵ -Fe) [1] is one of four forms of crystalline iron besides