## On the Directionality of Cation/Molecule Bonding in Lewis Bases Containing

## the Carbonyl Group

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## **Supplementary Material**

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Table S1. Calculated gas phase cation affinities (CA) and cation basicities (CB) of the studied molecules by B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) method at 298.15K. Im: Imidazolone; Lactone: gammabutyrolactone; Cyt: Cytosine. Isomers a, b, and c correspond to cation attachment from different sites, see main text, Figs. 4 & 6. Experimental values given in parenthesis for comparison; values in **bold** correspond to experiments involving different tautomers, see text and Fig. S8.

	$CA (-\Delta H)/kJ.mol^{-1}$	CB $(-\Delta G)/kJ.mol^{-1}$
$CH_2O + H^+ \rightarrow [CH_2O-H]^+$	705.5 (712.9) <sup>b</sup>	673.1 (683.3) <sup>b</sup>
$CH_3CHO + H^+ \rightarrow [CH_3CHO-H]^+$	771.1 (768.5) <sup>b</sup>	739.2 (736.5) <sup>b</sup>
$(CH_3)_2CO + H^+ \rightarrow [(CH_3)_2CO - H]^+$	$814.1(812)^{b}$	781.8
$\operatorname{Im} + \operatorname{H}^+ \to [\operatorname{Im} - \operatorname{H}]^+ (\operatorname{N})^a$	818.3	787.1
$Im + H^+ \rightarrow Im - H^{-+} O$	739.4	707.8
Lactone + $H^+ \rightarrow [Lactone-H]^+$	$841.7(840.0)^{b}$	809 3 (808 1) <sup>b</sup>
$Cvt + H^+ \rightarrow [Cvt - H]^+ (N)$	$956.0(949.9)^{b}$	$922.2(918.0)^{b}$
$Cvt + H^+ \rightarrow [Cvt - H]^+ (\Omega)$	954 7	919.9
$CH_2S + H^+ \rightarrow [CH_2S - H]^+$	$764.3(759.7)^{b}$	$7333(7305)^{b}$
$CH_2Se + H^+ \rightarrow [CH_2Se + H]^+$	$7745(7640)^{b}$	$7437(7349)^{b}$
$CH_2O + I_1^{\dagger} \rightarrow [CH_2O - I_1]^{\dagger}$	$145.6(142)^{\circ}$	$1165(1166)^{d}$
$CH_2CHO + Li^+ \rightarrow [CH_2CHO-Li]^+$	$173.3(170)^{\circ}$	$143.6(144.1)^{d}$
$(CH_2)_2CO + Li^+ \rightarrow [(CH_2)_2CO - Li]^+$	$192.6(186)^{e}$	$163.1(156.7)^{d}$
$Im + Ii^+ \rightarrow [Im - Ii]^+ - a$	167.9	140.1
$Im + Li^+ \rightarrow [Im Li]^+ h$	175.9	143.5
I = I = I = I = I = I = I = I = I = I =	210.7	102.8
$C_{xt} + L_{i}^{+} \rightarrow [C_{xt} L_{i}^{+}]^{+} a$	219.7 280.3 ( <b>235 237</b> ) <sup>c</sup> (285.1) <sup>f</sup>	253.8
$Cyt + Li \rightarrow [Cyt - Li] = a$ $Cyt + Li^+ \rightarrow [Cyt - Li]^+ b$	209.5 (255, 257), (205.1)	233.8
$C_{H}S + I_{J}^{+} \rightarrow [C_{H}S + I_{J}^{+}]^{+}$	111 5	247.7
$CH_{23} + Li^{+} \rightarrow [CH_{23} - Li]^{+}$	111.3	82.9 95.6
$CH_2SC + Li \rightarrow [CH_2SC - Li]$ $CH_2SC + Ne^+ \rightarrow [CH_2SC - Li]$	114.1 $102.6(0.6)^{e}$	74.0
$CH_2O + Na \rightarrow [CH_2O-Na]$	102.0(90) 122.1(110) <sup>d</sup> : (112) <sup>c</sup>	(4.9)
$(CH) CO + Na^+ \rightarrow [(CH) CO Na]^+$	125.1(119),(115)	95.0(92) 100.2 (105.7) <sup>d</sup>
$(CH_3)_2CO + Na \rightarrow [(CH_3)_2CO-Na]$	137.4 (131.3)	109.5 (105.7)
$\operatorname{Im} + \operatorname{Na} \to [\operatorname{Im} - \operatorname{Na}] - a$ $\operatorname{Im} + \operatorname{Na}^+ \to [\operatorname{Im} - \operatorname{Na}]^+ b$	120.9	94.5
$\operatorname{Im} + \operatorname{Na} \rightarrow [\operatorname{Im} - \operatorname{Na}] - b$	128.5	97.6
Lactone + Na $\rightarrow$ [Lactone-Na]	160.3	135.0
$Cyt + Na \rightarrow [Cyt-Na]$	21/./ (176, 178, 210); (215.1) <sup>5</sup>	183.8
$CH_2S + Na \rightarrow [CH_2S - Na]$	/5.6	48.5
$CH_2Se + Na \rightarrow [CH_2Se-Na]$	/8.6	51.6
$CH_2O + K \rightarrow [CH_2O - K]$	/8.4	52.2
$CH_3CHO + K \rightarrow [CH_3CHO - K]$	94.2	6/.4
$(CH_3)_2CO + K \rightarrow [(CH_3)_2CO - K]$	102.8 (102.1)	80.1
$\operatorname{Im} + \operatorname{K}^{+} \to [\operatorname{Im} - \operatorname{K}]^{-} a$	90.1	65.3
$\operatorname{Im} + K \rightarrow [\operatorname{Im} - K] - b$	92.8	64.2
Lactone + K $\rightarrow$ [Lactone-K]	122.4	98.3
$Cyt + K' \rightarrow [Cyt-K]'$	165.8 ( <b>110, 136,</b> 162) <sup>°</sup> ; (161.4) <sup>4</sup>	134.8
$CH_2S + K' \rightarrow [CH_2S - K]'$	45.5	20.9
$CH_2Se + K' \rightarrow [CH_2Se - K]'$	46.5	22.0
$CH_2O + Al' \rightarrow [CH_2O - Al]'$	$114.8(115.1)^{a,c}$	88.8 (93.6) <sup>a</sup> ; (90.3) <sup>c</sup>
$CH_3CHO + AI \rightarrow [CH_3CHO - AI]$	150.5 (156.8)°	$122.9(130.0)^{a};(129.8)^{c}$
$(CH_3)_2CO + Al \rightarrow [(CH_3)_2CO - Al]$	175.5	151.8 (157.6) <sup>a</sup>
$Im + Al \rightarrow [Im - Al] - a$	134.3	101.9
$\text{Im} + \text{Al}^+ \rightarrow [\text{Im} - \text{Al}]^+ - b$	132.2	106.2
$\text{Im} + \text{Al}^{+} \rightarrow [\text{Im} - \text{Al}]^{+} - c$	126.5	98.9
Lactone + Al <sup>+</sup> $\rightarrow$ [Lactone-Al] <sup>+</sup>	202.6	176.8
$Cyt + Al^{+} \rightarrow [Cyt - Al]^{+}$	286.4	253.9
$CH_2S + Al^+ \rightarrow [CH_2S - Al]^+$	89.8	62.7
$CH_2Se + Al^+ \rightarrow [CH_2Se-Al]^+$	97.9	70.8
$CH_2O + Cu^+ \rightarrow [CH_2O-Cu]^+$	$177.1 (165)^{e}$	146.3
$CH_3CHO + Cu^+ \rightarrow [CH_3CHO-Cu]^+$	209.3	177.9
$(CH_3)_2CO + Cu^+ \rightarrow [(CH_3)_2CO - Cu]^+$	222.7	196.5
$\text{Im} + \text{Cu}^+ \rightarrow [\text{Im}-\text{Cu}]^+-a$	266.4	232.6
Lactone + $Cu^+ \rightarrow [Lactone-Cu]^+$	264.5	234.2
$Cyt + Cu^+ \rightarrow [Cyt - Cu]^+ - a$	361.6	319.3
$CH_2S + Cu^+ \rightarrow [CH_2S - Cu]^+$	221.8	190.4
$CH_2Se + Cu^+ \rightarrow [CH_2Se - Cu]^+$	235.1	203.9

<sup>a</sup> The atoms in parenthesis are the sites of protonation.

<sup>b</sup> From ref. [10] (298 K).

<sup>c</sup> Re-anchored CA values at 0 K for alkali cations/cytosine compiled in ref. [2] (values at 298 K are 1-3 kJ/mol larger). <sup>d</sup> From ref. [5] (298 K). <sup>e</sup> From ref. [13] (298K). <sup>f</sup> Calculated by B3LYP/def2-TZVPPD method, ref. [45].

**Table S2**. The ionization energies of the metals studied in this work. The calculations were performed at the B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) level of theory.

Atom	B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p)	Experimental <sup>a</sup>
Н	13.66	13.59
Li	5.61	5.39
Na	5.42	5.14
Κ	4.49	4.34
Al	6.01	5.99
Cu	8.03	7.73

<sup>a</sup> from www.webbook.nist.gov



**Figure S1**. Mulliken charge distribution computed by B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p). Cation with smaller charge indicates more covalent interaction.



**Figure S2**. Effect of computational methods and basis sets on the C=O-X angle in the  $CH_2O/X^+$  adduct ions (X=Al, Li, Cu).

**Table S3**. The calculated  $\rho$ ,  $\nabla^2 \rho$ , G(r) and V(r) at the bond critical point (BCP) of the cation/molecule interactions. The atom in parenthesis indicates the site of interaction with the cation.

Adduct ion	$\rho(r)$	$\nabla^2 \rho(r)$	$G\left(r ight)$	V(r)	H(r)	-G(r)/V(r)
$[CH_2O-H]^+$	0.339	-2.515	0.0472	-0.7233	-0.6760	0.065
[CH <sub>2</sub> O-Cu] <sup>+</sup>	0.086	0.533	0.1394	-0.1454	-0.0060	0.958
$[CH_2O-Al]^+$	0.039	0.152	0.0410	-0.0438	-0.0028	0.935
[CH <sub>2</sub> O-Li] <sup>+</sup>	0.037	0.320	0.0648	-0.0494	0.0153	1.311
[CH <sub>2</sub> O-Na] <sup>+</sup>	0.026	0.195	0.0396	-0.0303	0.0092	1.306
$[CH_2O-K]^+$	0.021	0.115	0.0237	-0.0187	0.0050	1.266
[CH <sub>3</sub> CHO-H] <sup>+</sup>	0.345	-2.540	0.0512	-0.7376	-0.6863	0.069
[CH <sub>3</sub> CHO-Cu] <sup>+</sup>	0.090	0.554	0.1459	-0.1532	-0.0073	0.952
[CH <sub>3</sub> CHO-Al] <sup>+</sup>	0.046	0.236	0.0593	-0.0596	-0.0003	0.995
[CH <sub>3</sub> CHO-Li] <sup>+</sup>	0.040	0.352	0.0718	-0.0555	0.0162	1.293
[CH <sub>3</sub> CHO-Na] <sup>+</sup>	0.028	0.215	0.0438	-0.0339	0.0099	1.293
[CH <sub>3</sub> CHO-K] <sup>+</sup>	0.023	0.128	0.0268	-0.0215	0.0053	1.248
$[\text{Im-H]}^+$ (O)	0.338	-2.502	0.0489	-0.7237	-0.6747	0.067
$[\text{Im-H}]^+$ (N)	0.327	-1.797	0.0372	-0.5238	-0.4865	0.071
[Im-Cu] <sup>+</sup> -a (N)	0.102	0.473	0.1400	-0.1618	-0.0217	0.866
$[\text{Im-Al}]^+$ -a (O)	0.043	0.193	0.0499	-0.0514	-0.0014	0.971
$[\text{Im-Al}]^+$ -b (O)	0.043	0.168	0.0457	-0.0494	-0.0036	0.926
$[\text{Im-All}^+ - c(N)]$	0.038	0.069	0.0258	-0.0342	-0.0084	0.754
$[\text{Im-Li}]^+$ -a (O)	0.038	0.333	0.0675	-0.0517	0.0158	1.305
$[\text{Im-Li}]^+$ -b (O)	0.024	0.154	0.0321	-0.0256	0.0064	1.251
$[\text{Im-Li}]^+$ -b (N)	0.023	0.142	0.0295	-0.0234	0.0061	1.262
$[Im-Na]^+$ -a (O)	0.027	0.203	0.0412	-0.0316	0.0096	1.303
[Im-Na] <sup>+</sup> -b (O)	0.018	0.101	0.0212	-0.0171	0.0041	1.236
$[\text{Im-Na}]^+$ -b (N)	0.017	0.096	0.0197	-0.0155	0.0043	1.275
$[Im-K]^+$ -a (O)	0.022	0.119	0.0247	-0.0195	0.0052	1.265
$[Im-K]^+$ -b (O)	0.016	0.047	0.0150	-0.0125	0.0025	1.201
$[Im-K]^+-b(N)$	0.013	0.053	0.0108	-0.0085	0.0023	1.274
[Lactone-H]	0.345	-2.510	0.0544	-0.7365	-0.6822	0.074
[Lactone-Cu] <sup>+</sup>	0.093	0.586	0.1551	-0.1634	-0.0083	0.949
[Lactone-Al] <sup>+</sup>	0.053	0.326	0.0796	-0.0775	0.0021	1.027
[Lactone-Li] <sup>+</sup>	0.044	0.381	0.0786	-0.0618	0.0168	1.271
Lactone-Na <sup>+</sup>	0.031	0.229	0.0472	-0.0370	0.0102	1.275
[Lactone-K] <sup>+</sup>	0.026	0.140	0.0295	-0.0241	0.0054	1.224
$\begin{bmatrix} Cvt-Cu \end{bmatrix}^+$ -a (O)	0.054	0.256	0.0669	-0.0697	-0.0028	0.959
[Cyt-Cu] <sup>+</sup> -a (N)	0.069	0.318	0.0885	-0.0972	-0.0087	0.909
$\left[Cvt-Al\right]^{+}(O)$	0.064	0.446	0.1075	-0.1034	0.0041	1.039
[Cvt-Li] <sup>+</sup> -a (O)	0.037	0.264	0.0554	-0.0449	0.0105	1.234
[Cyt-Li] <sup>+</sup> -a (N)	0.022	0.141	0.0296	-0.0240	0.0056	1.235
$\left[Cyt-Li\right]^{+}-b(O)$	0.048	0.403	0.0849	-0.0688	0.0161	1.233
$[Cvt-Na]^+(O)$	0.028	0.179	0.0378	-0.0307	0.0071	1.231
Cvt-Nal <sup>+</sup> (N)	0.016	0.091	0.0188	-0.0150	0.0038	1.255
$\left[Cyt-K\right]^{+}(O)$	0.027	0.124	0.0274	-0.0236	0.0037	1.159
$\begin{bmatrix} Cvt-K \end{bmatrix}^+$ (N)	0.012	0.048	0.0099	-0.0079	0.0020	1.257
[CH <sub>2</sub> S-H] <sup>+</sup>	0.219	-0.664	0.0308	-0.2277	-0.1969	0.135
[CH <sub>2</sub> S-Cu] <sup>+</sup>	0.083	0.197	0.0743	-0.0992	-0.0249	0.748
CH <sub>2</sub> S-All <sup>+</sup>	0.034	-0.009	0.0084	-0.0191	-0.0107	0.441
$[CH_2S-Li]^+$	0.025	0.095	0.0232	-0.0225	0.0007	1.031
[CH <sub>2</sub> S-Na] <sup>+</sup>	0.018	0.070	0.0157	-0.0139	0.0018	1.126
$[CH_2S-K]^+$	0.012	0.039	0.0083	-0.0069	0.0014	1.204
$[CH_2Se-H]^+$	0.176	-0.322	0.0549	-0.1905	-0.1356	0.288
$[CH_2Se-Cu]^+$	0.075	0.155	0.0610	-0.0732	-0.0122	0.833
CH <sub>2</sub> Se-All <sup>+</sup>	0.033	-0.011	0.0071	-0.0169	-0.0098	0.417
[CH <sub>2</sub> Se-Li] <sup>+</sup>	0.023	0.081	0.0198	-0.0192	0.0006	1.029
[CH <sub>2</sub> Se-Na] <sup>+</sup>	0.016	0.061	0.0136	-0.0153	-0.0016	0.894
[CH <sub>2</sub> Se-K] <sup>+</sup>	0.012	0.034	0.0072	-0.0060	0.0012	1.201



**Figure S3**. The potential energies obtained by scanning of the out of plane C=O-X angle in (a)  $CH_2O/Li^+$ , (b)  $CH_2O/K^+$ , (c)  $CH_2O/Al^+$ , and (d)  $CH_2O/Cu^+$  adduct ions. In the case of  $CH_2O/Cu^+$ , the H-C-O-Cu dihedral was scanned. The results show that cations and  $CH_2O$  form planar adduct ions.



**Figure S4**. Geometry of the most stable structures of  $[CH_3CHO/X]^+$  adduct ions obtained by scanning the C=O-X angles at different O-X bond, X= Li<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup>. The direction of the total dipole moment of acetaldehyde is indicated by a green line. At enough far distances, the ions are aligned with the direction of the dipole moment of acetaldehyde.



**Figure S5**. The optimized structures of adduct ions of acetone and imidazolin-2-one with H<sup>+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Al<sup>+</sup>, and Cu<sup>+</sup>. A: imidazolin-2-one.



**Figure S6**. Comparison of charge distribution of  $[(CH_3)_2CO/Cu]^+$  and  $[CH_2O/Cu]^+$ . Smaller charge on the Cu atom in  $[(CH_3)_2CO/Cu]^+$  indicates more covalency of the  $(CH_3)_2CO/Cu^+$  interaction. Although the effect of Cu/CH<sub>3</sub> repulsion in  $[(CH_3)_2CO/Cu]^+$  is more than Cu/H repulsion in  $[CH_2O/Cu]^+$ , the C=O-Cu angle in  $[(CH_3)_2CO/Cu]^+$  is smaller due to more covalency of the  $(CH_3)_2CO/Cu^+$  interaction.



**Figure S7**. The optimized structures of  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone adduct ions of H<sup>+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Al<sup>+</sup> and Cu<sup>+</sup>. The energies, bond lengths and angles are in kJ/mol, angstrom (Å) and degree, respectively. The vector shows the direction of dipole moment of neutral  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone.



**Figure S8.** Structures of different isomers of alkali metal cation adducts of cytosine, optimized in gas phase at B3LYP/6-311++(d,p) level. The relative energies and cation affinities are in kJ/mol. The cation affinities are the enthalpies of reactions [Cytosine/X]<sup>+</sup>  $\rightarrow$  Cytosine + X<sup>+</sup> in gas phase. LiCA: Lithium cation affinity; NaCA: Sodium cation affinity; KCA: Potassium cation affinity.



**Figure S9**. Mulliken charge distribution for the cytosine adduct computed by B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) for all structures and B3LYP/aug-cc-PVDZ method for [Cyt/Cu]<sup>+</sup>.



**Figure S10**. Mulliken charge distribution for the  $CH_2O$ ,  $CH_2S$  and  $CH_2Se$  adduct ions computed by B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) method. Only most stable structures are shown.