## Supporting information for:

# Orientation of Methylguanidinium lons at the Water-Air Interface 

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In Figure S 1 we show calculated $\chi_{\text {eff }}^{(2)}$ values for the SS and AS methyl stretch vibrations in SSP, SPS and PPP polarization combinations. We do not include SPS polarization combination in our orientational analysis, because it has been found that the intensities of the asymmetric $\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ stretching modes of methanol, acetone and acetonitrile, measured with the SPS polarization combination do not correspond with the values predicted by the bond additivity model. ${ }^{\text {S1 }}$ For the SSP and PPP polarization combinations, the experimental findings are in excellent agreement with the predicted polarization dependence. ${ }^{\text {S2-S4 }}$

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Figure S1: Calculated $\chi_{\text {eff }}^{(2)}\left(\beta_{c c c}\right)$ as a function of the orientational angle $\theta$ for the symmetric methyl vibration (a) and $\chi_{\text {eff }}^{(2)}\left(\beta_{a c a}\right)$ for the asymmetric methyl vibration (b). The functions are plotted for SSP, SPS and PPP polarization combinations. The details of the calculation are given in the manuscript.

## Fitting Results

The SSP and PPP spectra were globally fitted with three Gaussian peaks and 11 parameters:

$$
R, S, D, x_{1}=0.5 N_{s} \beta_{c c c}\langle\cos \theta\rangle, x_{2}=\text { ratio between } \mathrm{FR} \text { and } \mathrm{SS},
$$ $\omega_{\mathrm{SS}}$ and $\sigma_{\mathrm{SS}}-$ frequency and width of SS,

$\omega_{\mathrm{FR}}$ and $\sigma_{\mathrm{FR}}$ - frequency and width of FR,
$\omega_{\mathrm{AS}}$ and $\sigma_{\mathrm{AS}}-$ frequency and width of AS.

The expressions for $\chi_{\text {eff }}^{(2)}$ of each of the resonance in SSP and PPP are:
For SSP

$$
\begin{align*}
& \chi_{\mathrm{eff}}^{(2), \mathrm{SS}}=0.334 x_{1}((1+R)-(1-R) D) \exp \left(\frac{-\left(\omega-\omega_{\mathrm{SS}}\right)^{2}}{2 \sigma_{\mathrm{SS}}^{2}}\right) \\
& \chi_{\mathrm{eff}}^{(2), \mathrm{FR}}=0.334 x_{1} x_{2}((1+R)-(1-R) D) \exp \left(\frac{-\left(\omega-\omega_{\mathrm{FR}}\right)^{2}}{2 \sigma_{\mathrm{FR}}^{2}}\right)  \tag{1}\\
& \chi_{\mathrm{eff}}^{(2), \mathrm{AS}}=0.334 \times 2 x_{1} S(1-D) \exp \left(\frac{-\left(\omega-\omega_{\mathrm{AS}}\right)^{2}}{2 \sigma_{\mathrm{AS}}^{2}}\right)
\end{align*}
$$

Table S1: Parameters determined from a global fit of the SSP and PPP spectra of a solution of $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{Gdm}^{+}$in water.

|  | $R$ | $1.0 \pm 0.1$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
|  | $S$ | $1.1 \pm 0.1$ |
|  | $D$ | $0.5 \pm 0.06$ |
|  | $x_{1}$ | -19 |
|  | $x_{2} \mathrm{FR} / \mathrm{SS}$ | 2.1 |
| SS | $\omega_{\mathrm{SS}}$ | $2863 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ |
|  | $\sigma_{\mathrm{SS}}$ | $23 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ |
| FR | $\omega_{\mathrm{FR}}$ | $2922 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ |
|  | $\sigma_{\mathrm{FR}}$ | $23 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ |
| AS | $\omega_{\mathrm{AS}}$ | $2950 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ |
|  | $\sigma_{\mathrm{AS}}$ | $21 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ |

For PPP

$$
\begin{align*}
\chi_{\mathrm{eff}}^{(2), \mathrm{SS}}= & \left(-0.279 x_{1}((1+R)-(1-R) D)\right. \\
& -0.242 x_{1}((1-R)(1-D)) \\
& +0.250 x_{1}((1-R)(1-D)) \\
& \left.+0.1372 x_{1}(R+(1-R) D)\right) \exp \left(\frac{-\left(\omega-\omega_{\mathrm{SS}}\right)^{2}}{2 \sigma_{\mathrm{SS}}^{2}}\right) \\
\chi_{\mathrm{eff}}^{(2), \mathrm{FR}}= & \left(-0.279 x_{1} x_{2}((1+R)-(1-R) D)\right.  \tag{2}\\
& -0.242 x_{1} x_{2}((1-R)(1-D)) \\
& +0.250 x_{1} x_{2}((1-R)(1-D)) \\
& \left.+0.1372 x_{1} x_{2}(R+(1-R) D)\right) \exp \left(\frac{-\left(\omega-\omega_{\mathrm{FR}}\right)^{2}}{2 \sigma_{\mathrm{FR}}^{2}}\right) \\
\chi_{\mathrm{eff}}^{(2), \mathrm{AS}}= & \left(0.558 x_{1} S(1-D)+0.484 x_{1} S D-0.50 x_{1} S D\right. \\
& \left.+0.548 x_{1} S(1-D)\right) \exp \left(\frac{-\left(\omega-\omega_{\mathrm{AS}}\right)^{2}}{2 \sigma_{\mathrm{AS}}^{2}}\right),
\end{align*}
$$

Where the numbers in front of each $\chi_{\text {eff }}^{(2)}$ element represents the Fresnel factors.


Figure S2: Imaginary $\chi^{(2)}$ spectra of a solution of methylguanidinium hydrochloride in water measured with SSP and PPP polarization combinations. The grey areas mark the region in which the R value is varied $\pm 0.1$ from the fitted value of 1 (a) and the region in which the angle $\theta$ is varied $\pm 5^{\circ}$ from the fitted value of $45^{\circ}$ (b).


Figure S3: A comparison of partial and full-Gaussian distributions: (a) dependence of D on the angle $\theta_{c}$ of the maximum of the distribution for three different widths. $\theta$ is the angle with respect to the surface normal, i.e. $\theta=0^{\circ}$ corresponds to ions with their main axis perpendicular to the surface, and $\theta=90^{\circ}$ to ions with their main axis parallel to the surface; (b) the width of the distribution required to get a D value of 0.5 , as a function of $\theta_{c}$. For $\theta_{c}$ $<45^{\circ} \mathrm{D}$ is always larger than 0.5 , which implies that there is no width for which D acquires the experimentally observed $\mathrm{D}=0.5$; (c) the fraction of molecules with their main axis at an angle $\theta>20^{\circ}$ with respect to the surface plane for different values $\theta_{c}$. At each value of $\theta_{c}$, the fraction is calculated using a distribution width that yields $\mathrm{D}=0.5$.

## References

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