B.Sc. Semester-VI
Organic Chemistry
Paper-XIV



1. Amino Acids, Peptides, Proteins and Nucleic Acids

Coverage:

1. Amino Acids and Peptides-2



Dr. Rajeev Ranjan
University Department of Chemistry
Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University, Ranchi

Amides from Amino Acids

- Amino acids contain a basic amino group and an acidic carboxyl group
- Joined as amides between the —NH₂ of one amino acid and the —CO₂H the next
- Chains with fewer than 50 units are called peptides
- Protein: large chains that have structural or catalytic functions in biology

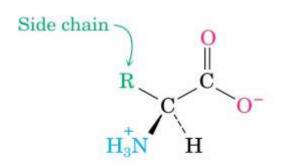
Structures of Amino Acids

- In neutral solution, the COOH is ionized and the NH₂ is protonated
- The resulting structures have "+" and "-" charges (a dipolar ion, or zwitterion)
- They are like ionic salts in solution

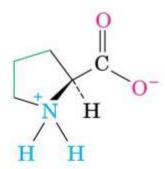
In acid solution
$$\begin{array}{c} R \\ C \\ H_3N \\ H \end{array} \begin{array}{c} R \\ C \\ O^- \\ H_3N \\ H \end{array} \begin{array}{c} R \\ C \\ H_3N \\ H \end{array} \begin{array}{c} C \\ O \\ H_2O \\ H_2O \\ H_2N \\ H \end{array}$$
In base solution
$$\begin{array}{c} R \\ C \\ O^- \\ H_2O \\ H_2N \\ H \end{array} \begin{array}{c} O \\ C \\ O^- \\ H_2O \\ H_2N \\ H \end{array}$$

The Common Amino Acids

- 20 amino acids form amides in proteins
- All are α -amino acids the amino and carboxyl are connected to the same C
- They differ by the other substituent attached to the α carbon, called the side chain, with H as the fourth substituent except for proline
- Proline, is a five-membered secondary amine, with N and the α C part of a five-membered ring



A primary α -amino acid



Proline, a secondary α-amino acid

Abbreviations and Codes

Alanine A, Ala

Arginine R, Arg

Asparagine N, Asn

Aspartic acid **D**, **Asp**

Cysteine C, Cys

Glutamine Q, Gln

Glutamic Acid E, Glu

Glycine G, Gly

Histidine H, His

Isoleucine I, Ile

Leucine L, Leu

Lysine K, Lys

Methionine M, Met

Phenylalanine F, Phe

Proline **P, Pro**

Serine **S, Ser**

Threonine **T, Thr**

Tryptophan **W, Trp**

Tyrosine **Y, Tyr**

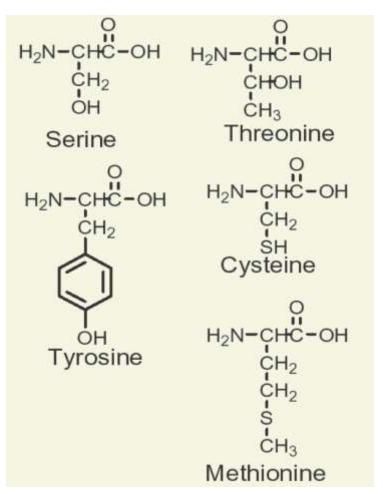
Valine **V, Val**

Learning the Names and Codes

- The names are not systematic so you learn them by using them (They become your friends)
- One letter codes learn them too
 - If only one amino acid begins with that letter, use it (Cys, His, Ile, Met, Ser, Val)
 - If more than one begins with that letter, the more common one uses the letter (Ala, Gly, Leu, Pro, Thr)
 - For the others, some are phonetic: Fenylalanine, aRginine, tYrosine
 - Tryp has a double ring, hence W
 - Amides have letters from the middle of the alphabet (Q Think of "Qtamine" for glutamine; asparagine -contains N
 - "Acid" ends in **D** and **E** follows (smallest is first: aspartic aci**D**, Glutamic acid **E**)

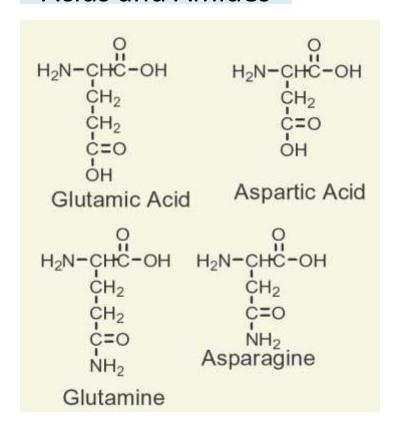
Neutral Hydrocarbon Side Chains

-OH, SH (Nucleophiles) and -S-CH₃



Cysteine C, Cys
Methionine M, Met
Serine S, Ser
Threonine T, Thr
Tyrosine Y, Tyr

Acids and Amides



Aspartic acid **D**, **Asp**Glutamic Acid **E**, **Glu**Asparagine **N**, **Asn**Glutamine **Q**, **Gln**

Amines

Arginine **R**, **Arg**Histidine **H**, **His**Lysine **K**, **Lys**Tryptophan **W**, **Trp**