INTERPRETATION OF THE IR/UV SPECTRA OF Ac-Trp-Tyr-NH $_2$  and Ac-Trp-Tyr-Ser-NH $_2$  USING MOLECULAR DYNAMICS AND AB INITIO METHODS.<sup>4</sup>

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The peptides Ac-Trp-Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub> and Ac-Trp-Tyr-Ser-NH<sub>2</sub>, which form the N-terminal region of a folding nucleus in  $\beta$ -lactoglobulin, were studied in the gas phase using IR/UV double resonance spectroscopy and initial results were presented at a previous symposium. Molecular dynamics (AMBER 99/99SB, CHARMM 27) and ab initio calculations (RI-B97-D/TZVPP, pbe GGA/cc-PVDZ) resulted in an improved interpretation of the spectra and assignments for the observed conformers. Results are compared to similar molecules such as Ac-Trp-NH<sub>2</sub> and Ac-Phe-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>.

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