# Evolution of microstructures and hydrogen bond interactions within choline amino acid ionic liquid and water mixtures

Jin Chen<sup>a</sup>, Xixi Zeng<sup>a</sup>, Ling Chen<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Ministry of Education Engineering Research Center of Starch & Protein Processing, Guangdong

Province Key Laboratory for Green Processing of Natural Products and Product Safety, School of Food Science

and Engineering, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou 510640, China

## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

1. Effect of temperature on the viscosity of [Cho][AA]-water mixtures with different ratios

The viscosity changes of [Cho][AA]-water mixtures with increased temperature are shown in Fig.S1. It can be seen that the viscosity values of all [Cho][AA]-water mixtures decreased with the increase of temperature. The motion capacities of cations and anions were continuously enhanced by heat energy. As results, intermolecular interactions between [Cho][AA] ions were weakened by heating, and the viscosity values decreased.



Fig.S1 The effect of temperature on the viscosity of [Cho][AA]-water mixtures with different ratios.

### 2. The spectral assignments of vibration modes of [Cho][AA] ionic liquid (IL)

A pre-request to analyse the vibration frequency shifts of functional groups (-COO<sup>-</sup>, -NH<sub>2</sub> and -COOH) is the correct assignment of vibration modes of [Cho][AA] IL. Here, [Cho][AA] dimer that resembles the real three-dimensional network structure of IL was chosen to make a correct assignment. By calculating the harmony frequency (Table S1-S2), the vibration modes were associated with -NH<sub>2</sub>, -OH, -CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>, -N-(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, -COOH and -COO<sup>-</sup> groups of [Cho][AA] IL in ATR-FTIR spectra (Fig.S2). It can be seen from Fig.S2 that asymmetric (3351 cm<sup>-1</sup>, v<sub>as</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>) and symmetric (3277 cm<sup>-1</sup>, v<sub>s</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>) stretching vibration peaks of -NH<sub>2</sub> group only appeared in neat [Cho][Lys] because of the extra residue -NH<sub>2</sub> group of Lys<sup>-</sup>. Yet, the asymmetric vibration peak of -COOH group couldn't be told from the ATR-FTIR spectrum of [Cho][Asp].

Assignments	ATR-FTIR spectrum (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	DFT calculations (cm <sup>-1</sup> )/Intensity
$v_{as}\alpha$ -N2H <sub>2</sub>	2251.02	3389.30 (5); 3383.02 (13)
$v_{as}R$ -N3H <sub>2</sub>	5551.02	3400.83 (19); 3361.28 (14)
$v_s \alpha$ -N2H <sub>2</sub>	2277 16	3318.90 (1); 3307.64 (16)
$v_{s}R$ -N3H <sub>2</sub>	5277.40	3267.72 (94); 3219.30 (117)
v <sub>s</sub> Cho-OH	3024.47	3508.90 (387); 2833.95 (795)
$\nu_{as}CH_3$	2925.79	3014.42 (24); 2996.53 (32)
		2935.79 (49); 2933.60 (37);
	2951.00	2927.07 (34); 2917.99 (48);
$V_{as}CH_2+V_sCH_3$	2851.00	2915.02 (39); 2914.78 (37);
		2909.21 (33); 2903.92 (87)
v <sub>as</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>	1567.49	1608.85 (633); 1584.82 (401)
S CH	1470 57	1456.25 (39); 1447.94 (33);
o <sub>as</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	1479.57	1439.09 (33); 1437.64 (43)
v <sub>s</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>	1389.21	1380.35 (59); 1345.50 (68)
$\delta_{as} CH_2\text{-}OH$	1083.40	1122.57 (26); 1078.84 (91)
vN-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	955.15	946.81 (30); 942.44 (31)
τNH <sub>2</sub>	862.02	919.74 (178); 916.74 (88); 896.42
	803.92	(60); 869.20 (69)

Table S1 The assignments of vibration modes of [Cho][Lys] dimer.

 $v_{as}$ : asymmetrical stretching vibration;  $v_s$ : symmetrical stretching vibration;  $\delta_{as}$ : asymmetrical deformation vibration;  $\tau$ : twisting vibration

Table S2 The assignments of vibration modes of [Cho][Asp] dimer.

Assignments	ATR-FTIR spectrum (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	DFT calculations (cm <sup>-1</sup> )/Intensity
$v_{as}\alpha$ -N2H <sub>2</sub>		3401.87 (14); 3390.69 (7)
$\nu_s \alpha$ -N2H <sub>2</sub>		3327.01 (6); 3313.77 (4)
v <sub>s</sub> Cho-OH	3027.92	3686.98 (68); 3190.00 (849)
$v_{as}CH_3$	2955.75	3071.35 (65); 3059.63 (21)
	2850.70	2919.54 (28); 2907.97 (23);
VasCH2+VsCH3	2830.79	2896.34 (40); 2870.10 (123)
$\nu_{as}$ R-COOH		1684.70 (399); 1647.80 (99)
$v_{as}COO^{-}$	1578.93	1599.76 (629); 1581.12 (973)
S CU	1476 (4	1453.13 (31); 1447.49 (32);
o <sub>as</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	14/0.04	1436.15 (48)
v <sub>s</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>	1374.96	1374.07 (135); 1371.65 (183)
$v_s R$ -COOH	1348.00	1331.23 (64); 1309.07 (646)
$\delta_{as} CH_2\text{-}OH$	1073.39	1123.46 (21); 1070.52 (67)
vN-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	955.12	959.31 (29); 942.58 (36)
$\tau NH_2$	855.31	882.02 (129); 863.51 (107)

 $v_{as}$ : asymmetrical stretching vibration;  $v_s$ : symmetrical stretching vibration;  $\delta_{as}$ : asymmetrical deformation vibration;  $\tau$ : twisting vibration



Fig.S2 The spectral assignments of [Cho][Lys] and [Cho][Asp] IL. These assignments were based on the above theoretical frequency calculations of [Cho][AA] dimer.

## 3. Atoms in molecules (AIM) analysis of [Cho][AA]- $nH_2O$ (n=1, 2) complexes

The AIM analysis<sup>1</sup> was used to further identify the nature and strength of hydrogen bond (HB) interactions of tight [Cho][AA] ion pairs with one water molecule and water-separated [Cho][AA] ion pairs in Fig.7 by using Multiwfn 3.8 software.<sup>2</sup> And their bond critical point (BCP) properties of HB interacitons are reported in Table S3-S4.

Table S3 Properties of BCP (a.u.) for the interactions of tight [Cho][Lys] ion pairs with one water molecule (G1, G2, G3, G4), water-separated [Cho][Lys] ion pairs (G5, G6) in Fig.7, and the number (N<sub>HB</sub>), length (L<sub>HB</sub>, Å) and bond angle (deg) of HBs.

	$\mathrm{N}_{\mathrm{HB}}$	Range L <sub>HB</sub>	Bond angle	Total $\rho_{BCP}$	Range $\rho_{BCP}$	Range $\nabla^2 \rho$	Range G(r)	Range V(r)	Range H(r)
G1									
Cho++H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	2	2.53~2.58	104.05~107.64	0.019	0.009~0.010	0.038~0.038	0.008	-0.007~-0.006	0.001~0.002
Lys <sup>-</sup> +H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(O <sub>H2O</sub> H)	1	1.76	165.02	0.036	0.036	0.134	0.034	-0.034	0.000
Cho++Lys-									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(O1H <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	1.77	165.78	0.035	0.035	0.130	0.032	-0.032	0.000
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	3	2.22~2.46	140.66~149.91	0.040	0.011~0.016	0.036~0.057	0.008~0.012	-0.012~-0.007	0.001~0.002
$N2_{Lys}$ -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	2	2.70~2.87	112.54~127.87	0.015	0.007~0.008	0.020~0.024	0.004~0.005	-0.005~-0.004	0.001
Intramolecular HBs									

O1 <sub>Cho</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.36	107.56	0.015	0.015	0.055	0.012	-0.011	0.006
$N3_{Lys}$ -H(CH <sub>Lys</sub> )	1	2.79	117.00	0.008	0.008	0.026	0.006	-0.005	0.001
G2									
Cho <sup>+</sup> +H <sub>2</sub> O									
O1 <sub>Cho</sub> -H(O <sub>H2O</sub> H)	1	1.80	148.55	0.033	0.033	0.133	0.032	-0.031	0.001
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	2	2.32~2.36	151.20~154.29	0.023	0.011~0.012	0.039~0.044	0.008~0.009	-0.008~-0.007	0.001~0.002
Cho++Lys-									
$N3_{Lys}$ -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.70	125.93	0.008	0.008	0.023	0.005	-0.004	0.001
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(O1H <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	1.59	168.05	0.058	0.058	0.153	0.050	-0.062	-0.012
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	3	2.13~2.31	141.54~147.12	0.051	0.013~0.020	0.045~0.068	0.010~0.015	-0.013~-0.008	0.002
Intramolecular HBs									
O1 <sub>Cho</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.43	106.72	0.014	0.014	0.048	0.011	-0.010	0.001
G3									
Lys <sup>-+</sup> H <sub>2</sub> O									
N2 <sub>Lys</sub> -H(O <sub>H2O</sub> H)	1	1.91	158.16	0.033	0.033	0.098	0.025	-0.026	-0.001
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(CH <sub>Lys</sub> )	2	2.45~2.66	128.11~157.58	0.016	0.007~0.009	0.021~0.038	0.005~0.008	-0.006~-0.004	0.001~0.002
Cho++Lys-									

$O_{COO}$ -H(O1H <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	1.66	168.66	0.050	0.050	0.146	0.043	-0.050	-0.007
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	3	2.12~2.21	139.76~143.65	0.054	0.017~0.020	0.060~0.071	0.013~0.016	-0.014~-0.012	0.002
Intramolecular HBs									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(CH)	1	2.49	126.98	0.012	0.012	0.037	0.008	-0.007	0.001
O1 <sub>Cho</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.34	107.42	0.016	0.016	0.059	0.013	-0.011	0.002
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(N3H <sub>Lys</sub> )	1	2.16	174.11	0.017	0.017	0.060	0.013	-0.012	0.002
G4									
Cho <sup>+</sup> +H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	3	2.29~2.35	143.87~146.56	0.038	0.012~0.013	0.041~0.047	0.009~0.010	-0.009~-0.008	0.001~0.002
Lys <sup>-</sup> +H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(N3H <sub>Lys</sub> )	1	1.75	167.92	0.048	0.048	0.103	0.035	-0.043	-0.009
Cho++Lys-									
N3 <sub>Lys</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.81	115.04	0.006	0.006	0.0219	0.0047	-0.0039	0.001
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(O1H <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	1.65	167.46	0.050	0.050	0.150	0.044	-0.050	-0.006
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	3	2.10~2.49	141.44~150.86	0.044	0.011~0.019	0.031~0.074	0.007~0.016	-0.013~-0.007	0.001~0.003
Intramolecular HBs									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(N3H <sub>Lys</sub> )	1	2.03	171.09	0.021	0.021	0.078	0.017	-0.015	0.002

$O_{\text{COO}}\text{-}H(\text{N2H}_{\text{Lys}})$	1	2.20	112.16	0.020	0.020	0.087	0.019	-0.016	0.003
G5									
Cho++H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(O1H <sub>Lys</sub> )	1	1.71	163.36	0.043	0.043	0.146	0.039	-0.042	-0.003
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(CH <sub>Lys</sub> )	1	2.63	112.78	0.008	0.008	0.030	0.006	-0.005	0.001
Lys <sup>-</sup> +H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(O <sub>H2O</sub> H)	1	1.57	178.66	0.061	0.061	0.159	0.053	-0.066	-0.013
Cho++Lys-									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(CH <sub>Lys</sub> )	4	2.06~2.38	133.34~168.92	0.066	0.013~0.020	0.042~0.082	0.009~0.018	-0.015~-0.008	0.001~0.003
Intramolecular HBs									
O1 <sub>Lys</sub> -H(CH <sub>Lys</sub> )	2	2.32~2.38	121.01~124.01	0.028	0.013~0.015	0.047~0.051	0.010~0.011	-0.010	0.001~0.002
G6									
Cho <sup>+</sup> +H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(O1H <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	1.74	159.98	0.040	0.040	0.137	0.036	-0.038	-0.002
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	3	2.36~2.46	147.85~171.32	0.030	0.010	0.031~0.040	0.007~0.008	-0.007~-0.006	0.001~0.002
Lys <sup>-</sup> +H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(O <sub>H2O</sub> H)	2	1.61~1.76	167.08~173.88	0.047	0.038~0.056	0.130~0.153	0.034~0.048	-0.058~-0.035	-0.001

Cho++Lys-									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	3	2.46~2.61	110.35~119.42	0.031	0.009~0.011	0.030~0.041	0.007~0.009	-0.008~-0.006	0.001
$N3_{Lys}$ -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.28	177.41	0.016	0.016	0.050	0.011	-0.009	0.002
Intramolecular HBs									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(CH <sub>Lys</sub> )	1	2.64	141.60	0.008	0.008	0.026	0.006	-0.005	0.001
O1 <sub>Cho</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.49	106.93	0.012	0.012	0.044	0.010	-0.008	0.001

Table S4 Properties of BCP (a.u.) for the interactions of tight [Cho][Asp] ion pairs with one water molecule (H1, H2, H3, H4) and water-separated [Cho][Asp] ion pairs (H5, H6) in Fig.7, and the number (N\_{HB}), length (L\_{HB}, Å) and bond angle (deg) of HBs.

	N <sub>HB</sub>	Range $L_{HB}$	Bond angle	Total $\rho_{BCP}$	Range $\rho_{BCP}$	Range $\nabla^2 \rho$	Range G(r)	Range V(r)	Range H(r)
H1									
Cho <sup>+</sup> +H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	2	2.48~2.86	110.08~123.66	0.016	0.006~0.010	0.021~0.037	0.004~0.008	-0.007~-0.004	0.001
Asp <sup>-</sup> +H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(O <sub>H2O</sub> H)	1	1.81	164.72	0.030	0.030	0.123	0.029	-0.027	0.002
Cho <sup>+</sup> +Asp <sup>-</sup>									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(O1H <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	1.82	151.04	0.033	0.033	0.124	0.031	-0.030	0.000

O <sub>COO</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	3	2.14~2.35	163.48~175.08	0.046	0.014~0.018	0.047~0.063	0.010~0.014	-0.009~-0.012	0.001~0.002
N2 <sub>Asp</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.79	121.73	0.007	0.007	0.022	0.005	-0.004	0.001
Intramolecular HBs									
O1 <sub>Cho</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.50	100.23	0.013	0.013	0.049	0.011	-0.009	0.001
O5 <sub>Asp</sub> -H(N2H <sub>Asp</sub> )	1	2.35	122.74	0.013	0.013	0.046	0.010	-0.009	0.001
H2									
Cho++H <sub>2</sub> O									
O1 <sub>Cho</sub> -H(O <sub>H2O</sub> H)	1	1.78	158.38	0.036	0.0361	0.133	0.033	-0.033	-0.000
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	2	2.28~2.31	130.78~143.01	0.026	0.013	0.048~0.048	0.010	-0.008	0.002
Cho <sup>+</sup> +Asp <sup>-</sup>									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(O1H <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	1.55	170.21	0.067	0.067	0.149	0.055	-0.073	-0.018
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	3	2.05~2.20	146.16~175.21	0.056	0.018~0.021	0.058~0.078	0.013~0.017	-0.014~-0.011	0.002~0.003
O5 <sub>Asp</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.70	112.43	0.006	0.006	0.024	0.005	-0.004	0.001
Intramolecular HBs									
O1 <sub>Cho</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.49	104.89	0.017	0.017	0.046	0.010	-0.009	0.001
O5 <sub>Asp</sub> -H(N2H <sub>Asp</sub> )	1	2.46	118.45	0.011	0.011	0.039	0.009	-0.008	0.001
Н3									

N2 <sub>Asp</sub> -H(O <sub>H2O</sub> H)	1	1.85	172.35	0.038	0.038	0.098	0.027	-0.031	-0.003
Cho <sup>+</sup> +H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.46	108.87	0.011	0.011	0.042	0.009	-0.008	0.002
Cho++Asp-									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(O1H <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	1.73	165.65	0.036	0.036	0.139	0.036	-0.038	-0.002
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	3	2.05~2.28	146.06~161.31	0.051	0.014~0.022	0.048~0.080	0.011~0.018	-0.016~-0.009	0.002
Intramolecular HBs									
O1 <sub>Cho</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.39	104.75	0.015	0.015	0.055	0.012	-0.011	0.002
O5 <sub>Asp</sub> -H(N2H <sub>Asp</sub> )	1	2.29	124.01	0.014	0.014	0.052	0.011	-0.010	0.002
H4									
Asp <sup>-</sup> +H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(O4H <sub>Asp</sub> )	1	1.82	155.50	0.031	0.031	0.119	0.029	-0.028	0.001
O5 <sub>Asp</sub> -H(O <sub>H2O</sub> H)	1	1.96	135.74	0.025	0.025	0.096	0.022	-0.020	0.002
Cho++Asp-									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(O1H <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	1.69	167.33	0.043	0.043	0.147	0.040	-0.043	-0.003
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	4	2.16~2.41	125.37~145.93	0.065	0.012~0.019	0.044~0.064	0.010~0.014	-0.013~-0.008	0.001~0.002

Asp<sup>-</sup>+H<sub>2</sub>O

Intramolecular HBs									
O1 <sub>Cho</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.26	114.75	0.018	0.018	0.064	0.014	-0.012	0.002
O5 <sub>Asp</sub> -H(N2H <sub>Asp</sub> )	1	2.39	120.52	0.012	0.012	0.044	0.010	-0.009	0.001
Н5									
Cho++H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(O1H <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	1.71	162.85	0.042	0.042	0.148	0.039	-0.042	-0.003
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.64	112.77	0.008	0.008	0.029	0.006	-0.005	0.001
Asp <sup>-</sup> +H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(O <sub>H2O</sub> H)	1	1.58	177.56	0.059	0.059	0.159	0.052	-0.064	-0.012
Cho <sup>+</sup> +Asp <sup>-</sup>									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	41	2.05~2.35	133.00~169.36	0.064	0.014~0.020	0.044~0.084	0.010~0.018	-0.015~-0.009	0.001~0.003
Intramolecular HBs									
O1 <sub>Cho</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	2	2.33~2.38	121.10~123.97	0.027	0.013~0.014	0.048~0.050	0.010~0.011	-0.010~-0.009	0.001~0.002
O5 <sub>Asp</sub> -H(N2H <sub>Asp</sub> )	88	2.40	120.88	0.012	0.012	0.043	0.009	-0.008	0.001
H6									
Cho++H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(O1H <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	1.79	157.05	0.037	0.037	0.126	0.033	-0.033	-0.001

O <sub>H2O</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	3	2.40~2.66	113.57~121.25	0.029	0.008~0.011	0.026~0.047	0.006~0.010	-0.008~-0.005	0.001~0.002
Asp <sup>-</sup> +H <sub>2</sub> O									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(O <sub>H2O</sub> H)	2	1.69~1.82	164.98~172.19	0.076	0.032~0.044	0.120~0.142	0.029~0.039	-0.043~-0.028	- 0.004~0.001
Cho <sup>+</sup> +Asp <sup>-</sup>									
O <sub>COO</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	4	2.15~2.55	136.10~162.97	0.049	0.009~0.017	0.029~0.062	0.007~0.013	-0.011~-0.006	0.001~0.002
O5 <sub>Asp</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	2	2.61~2.64	103.56~109.47	0.017	0.008~0.009	0.028~0.036	0.006~0.008	-0.006~-0.005	0.001
Intramolecular HBs									
O1 <sub>Cho</sub> -H(CH <sub>Cho</sub> )	1	2.27	122.33	0.017	0.017	0.057	0.013	-0.011	0.002
O5 <sub>Asp</sub> -H(N2H <sub>Asp</sub> )	1	2.36	122.43	0.013	0.013	0.045	0.010	-0.009	0.001

#### 4. The effect of mixture ratio on the vibration modes of -NH<sub>2</sub> group in [Cho][AA]-water mixtures

Fig.S3 shows the ATR-FTIR spectra (a) and second derivative spectra (b) of [Cho][AA]-water mixtures within the range of 3800~2750 cm<sup>-1</sup>. For -NH<sub>2</sub> group, when water was added to [Cho][Lys], both asymmetric ( $v_{as}NH_2$ ) and symmetric ( $v_sNH_2$ ) stretching vibrations of -NH<sub>2</sub> group moved to high wavenumbers, showing a blue shift phenomenon. Yet, these  $v_{as}NH_2$  and  $v_sNH_2$  disappeared and were masked at high water amount (w:IL  $\geq$  7:3).



Fig.S3 The ATR-FTIR spectra (a) and second derivative spectra (b) of [Cho][AA]-water mixtures within the range of 3800-2750 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

## References

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