# Rapid, selective, sensitive fluorometric detection of cyanide anion in aqueous media by cyanine dyes with indolium–coumarin linkage

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#### Experimental methods General

Absorption spectra were measured on an UV-visible photodiode-array spectrophotometer (Shimadzu; Multispec-1500) equipped with a temperature controller (S-1700). Fluorescence spectra were measured on a JASCO FP-6500 fluorescence spectrophotometer. Light irradiations were carried out with Xe lamp (300 W; Asahi Spectra Co. Ltd.; MAX-302) equipped with 334 nm (light intensity: 69.1 mW m<sup>-2</sup>) band-pass filter. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were obtained by a JEOL JNM-ECS400 spectrometer. FAB-MS analysis was performed by a JEOL JMS 700 Mass Spectrometer. The fluorescence quantum yield ( $\Phi_F$ ) was determined according to literature method using Rhodamine B (in ethanol) as a reference.<sup>[1]</sup>

#### **Calculation details**

Calculations were carried out with tight convergence criteria at the DFT level with the Gaussian 03 package,<sup>[2]</sup> using the B3LYP/6-31G\* basis set for all atoms. The excitation energies and the oscillator strength of each structure were calculated by time-dependent density-functional theory  $(TD-DFT)^{[3]}$  at the same level of optimization using the polarizable continuum model  $(PCM)^{[4]}$  with water as a solvent. Cartesian coordinates for the merocyanine form of **2** and **3** are summarized in the end of this Supporting Information.

#### Synthesis



**Compound 2** 2' (1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3*H*-indolium iodide) and 4 (7-diethylaminocoumarine -3-aldehyde) were prepared according to literature procedure, respectively.<sup>[5,6]</sup> 2' (123 mg, 0.41 mmol) and 4 (143 mg, 0.58 mmol) were stirred in EtOH (20 mL) for 20 h at 60 °C. The resultant was concentrated by evaporation, and purified by recrystallization with MeOH (3 mL), affording 2 as a green solid (101.6 mg, 47 %).<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, TMS)  $\delta$  (ppm): 8.81 (1H, s), 8.24 (1H, d, J = 15.6 Hz), 7.83 (3H, dq, J = 9.3, 2.1 Hz), 7.58 (3H, dq, J = 9.3, 2.5 Hz), 6.92 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, d, J = 2.3 Hz), 3.97 (3H, s), 3.57 (4H, q, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.76 (6H, s), 1.19 (6H, t, J = 7.1 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, TMS)  $\delta$  (ppm): 180.7, 159.2, 157.4, 153.8, 150.0, 149.1, 142.9, 141.8, 132.1, 128.7, 128.4, 122.6, 114.3, 112.1, 111.2, 110.0, 109.3, 96.4, 51.2, 44.7, 33.6, 25.8, 12.3. FAB-MS: *m/z*: calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> ([**2** –  $\Gamma$ ]<sup>+</sup>) 401.2; found: 401.2; HRMS (FAB<sup>+</sup>): *m/z*: calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> ([**2** –  $\Gamma$ ]<sup>+</sup>) 401.2227.

**Compound 3** 3' (5-chloro-1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3*H*-indolium iodide) was prepared according to literature procedure.<sup>[5]</sup> 3' (130 mg, 0.39 mmol) and 4 (77 mg, 0.31 mmol) were stirred in EtOH (10 mL) for 3 h at 80 °C. The resultant was concentrated by evaporation, and purified by recrystallization with a mixture of EtOH and ethyl acetate (1/1, 6 mL), affording 3 as a green solid (68.7 mg, 39 %). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, TMS)  $\delta$  (ppm): 8.81 (1H, s), 8.26 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz), 8.03 (1H, d, J = 1.8 Hz), 7.82 (2H, dd, J = 22.2, 12.1 Hz), 7.67 (1H, dd, J = 8.7, 2.3 Hz), 7.59 (1H, d, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, d, J = 1.8 Hz), 7.82 (2H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, d, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz), 6.72 (1H, dd, J = 9.2 Hz), 6.93 (1H,

1.8 Hz), 3.94 (3H, s), 3.58 (4H, q, J = 6.9 Hz), 1.77 (6H, s), 1.19 (6H, t, J = 7.1 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, TMS)  $\delta$  (ppm): 180.8, 159.2, 157.6, 154.0, 150.4, 149.8, 144.8, 140.8, 133.0, 132.3, 128.8, 123.2, 115.9, 112.1, 111.3, 109.8, 109.4, 96.5, 51.4, 44.8, 33.7, 25.6, 12.4. FAB-MS: *m/z*: calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Cl<sup>+</sup> ([**3** –  $\Gamma$ ]<sup>+</sup>); 435.2; found: 435.2; HRMS (FAB<sup>+</sup>): *m/z*: calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Cl<sup>+</sup> ([**3** –  $\Gamma$ ]<sup>+</sup>): 435.1834; found: 435.1836.

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species		Main orbital transition (CIC <sup><i>a</i></sup> )	$E(eV)[\lambda(nm)]$	f
3	$S_0 \mathop{\rightarrow} S_1$	HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.62264)	2.3706 [523.01]	1.8812
	$S_0 \mathop{\rightarrow} S_1$	HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.63542)	3.1818 [389.67]	1.1388
<b>3</b> –CN <sup>–</sup>	$S_0 \rightarrow S_4$	HOMO-1 → LUMO+2 (-0.10646) HOMO → LUMO+1 (0.55446) HOMO-1 → LUMO+1 (0.14735) HOMO-2 → LUMO (0.30346)	4.3376 [285.84]	0.2380

**Table S1** Calculated excitation energy (*E*), wavelength ( $\lambda$ ), and oscillator strength (*f*) for low-laying singlet state (S<sub>n</sub>) of **3** and **3**–CN<sup>-</sup> species.

<sup>*a*</sup> CI expansion coefficients for the main orbital transitions.

species		Main orbital transition (CIC <sup>a</sup> )	$E(eV)[\lambda(nm)]$	f
2	$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$	HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.62391)	2.4001 [516.58]	1.800
<b>2</b> -CN <sup>-</sup>	$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$	HOMO-1 → LUMO (0.20711) HOMO → LUMO (0.61624)	3.1746 [390.56]	0.9701
	$S_0 \rightarrow S_2$	HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.67061) HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (-0.17037)	3.2855 [377.36]	0.1752
	$S_0 \rightarrow S_4$	HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.11621) HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.33682) HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (0.5512)	4.3667 [283.93]	0.2789

**Table S2** Calculated excitation energy (*E*), wavelength ( $\lambda$ ), and oscillator strength (*f*) for low-laying singlet state (S<sub>n</sub>) of **2** and **2**–CN<sup>-</sup> species.

<sup>a</sup> CI expansion coefficients for the main orbital transitions.



Calculated energy diagrams for 2 and 2-CN<sup>-</sup>



**Fig. S1** <sup>1</sup>H NMR chart of **2** (DMSO- $d_6$ , 400 MHz).



Fig. S2  $^{13}$ C NMR chart of 2 (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz).

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Fig. S3 FAB-MS chart of 2.

ton-1-1.jdf J:34:00	MHz KHz Hz	ΗZ	sec sec usec	U	zH mqq
MC-Cl_Prot gle_pulse 4-04-24 2( ton.ixp	399.78 4.19 7.29	16384 7503.00 8	2.1837 10.0000 5.00	30.0	0.00 1.20 44
Cou sin 201 1H Dro	։ Լ հ			1H DMS	
DFILE COMNT DATIM OBNUC EXMOD	OBFRQ OBSET OBFIN	POINT FREQU SCANS	ACQTM PD PW1	I RNUC CTEMP SLVNT	EXREF BF RGAIN





**Fig. S4**  $^{1}$ H NMR chart of **3** (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz).



**Fig. S5**  $^{13}$ C NMR chart of **3** (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz).



Fig. S6 FAB-MS chart of 3.



**Fig. S7** (a) Fluorescence spectra ( $\lambda_{ex} = 415 \text{ nm}$ ) of **3** (5 µM) measured with 50 equiv of CN<sup>-</sup> together with 50 equiv of other respective anions in a buffered water/MeCN mixture (7/3 v/v; CHES 100 mM, pH 9.0) at 25 °C. (b) Fluorescence intensity of the respective solutions.



**Fig. S8** (a) Fluorescence spectra ( $\lambda_{ex}$ = 415 nm) of **2** (5 µM), measured with 20 equiv of each respective anion in a buffered water/MeCN mixture (7/3 v/v; CHES 100 mM, pH 9.0) at 25 °C. (b) Change in absorption spectra. (c) Fluorescence spectra of **2** measured with 50 equiv of CN<sup>-</sup> together with 50 equiv of other respective anions. (d) Fluorescence intensity of the respective solutions.



**Fig. S9** Fluorescence spectra of **3** (5  $\mu$ M) measured without or with CN<sup>-</sup> (50 equiv) in MeCN solutions (CHES 100 mM, pH 9.0) with different water content (0, 30, 70, and 80%).



**Fig. S10** Time-dependent change in absorption spectra of (a) **2** and (b) **3** (5  $\mu$ M), measured with 50 equiv of CN<sup>-</sup> in a buffered water/MeCN mixture (7/3 v/v; CHES 100 mM, pH 9.0) at 25 °C. (inset) Change in absorbance for respective bands.



Fig. S11 FAB-MS chart of 2–CN<sup>-</sup> species.



Fig. S12 FAB-MS chart of 3–CN<sup>–</sup> species.

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**Fig. S13** Change in the ratio of fluorescence intensity ( $\lambda_{ex}$ = 415 nm;  $\lambda_{em}$ = 484 nm) of **2** (5  $\mu$ M) as a function of CN<sup>-</sup> concentration in a water/MeCN mixture (7/3 v/v; pH 9.0) at 25 °C.



**Fig. S14** Fluorescence spectra of **3** (5  $\mu$ M) measured in a water/MeCN mixture (7/3 v/v; pH 9.0) by excitation at 570 nm with different anions (50 equiv).

Cartesian Coordinates (in Å) of 2



С	-8.154502	-0.848079	0.026544	Η	-9.068165	-1.439185	0.005227
С	-8.233218	0.546181	0.117566	Η	-9.206834	1.03034	0.166486
С	-7.079527	1.337209	0.147288	Η	-7.159492	2.419427	0.217963
С	-5.858171	0.672666	0.08265	Η	-6.857707	-2.578153	-0.107617
С	-5.759697	-0.717277	-0.008377	Η	-3.698793	2.971211	-0.699274
С	-6.911579	-1.492348	-0.037392	Η	-5.199426	3.195541	0.224411
Ν	-4.545823	1.213517	0.093678	Η	-3.681533	2.858662	1.084592
С	-3.609933	0.253807	0.016626	Η	-2.9304	-2.131163	-1.460376
С	-4.295723	-1.116085	-0.059865	Н	-4.591738	-2.744151	-1.4618
С	-4.260635	2.646656	0.181208	Η	-4.218343	-1.200195	-2.252059
С	-3.981705	-1.837755	-1.394472	Η	-2.883349	-2.295408	1.152495
С	-3.936738	-2.002374	1.159231	Н	-4.145881	-1.482497	2.099415
С	-2.235681	0.581708	0.015026	Н	-4.542297	-2.913867	1.129259
С	-1.199315	-0.324029	-0.0608	Η	-1.970463	1.628405	0.078538
С	0.199813	-0.038527	-0.065843	Η	-1.424715	-1.384902	-0.12624
С	1.111658	-1.093166	-0.148109	Н	0.731127	-2.115252	-0.204838
С	2.494592	-0.886818	-0.161139	Η	3.134054	-2.953166	-0.28813
С	2.977908	0.443911	-0.087153	Η	5.505979	-2.465795	-0.296162
0	2.095564	1.485637	-0.000858	Η	4.591666	1.802242	-0.017296
С	0.71767	1.330411	0.014358	Н	7.308434	-1.886905	-0.804248
С	3.470394	-1.91819	-0.237423	Η	8.548767	-0.687507	-0.601253
С	4.810873	-1.636964	-0.24358	Η	6.495293	2.003832	-0.820303
С	5.291831	-0.280727	-0.183793	Н	6.748982	1.784063	0.911563
С	4.320313	0.756643	-0.091549	Η	8.660185	-2.359809	1.240747
Ν	6.623139	0.005319	-0.218524	Н	8.270179	-0.762075	1.906312
С	7.629056	-1.066939	-0.156843	Η	6.994833	-1.980421	1.723653
С	7.050354	1.416676	-0.080082	Н	8.694733	2.765102	-0.190123
С	7.900847	-1.570109	1.265345	Η	9.168643	1.19518	0.462149
С	8.538267	1.685456	-0.286072	Η	8.87761	1.389607	-1.284209
0	0.070005	2.358533	0.093976				

# Cartesian Coordinates (in Å) of $2\text{--}CN^-$



С	3.413382	0.329081	0.05296	N	3.620996	2.975486	-0.020414
С	1.975611	-0.112164	0.192622	Н	1.85394	-1.142075	0.503898
С	0.900786	0.657359	-0.058713	Н	1.055483	1.694849	-0.360577
С	-0.51156	0.292644	0.016059	Н	-1.16085	2.231601	-0.592395
С	-1.47426	1.229445	-0.293954	Н	-3.627233	2.871137	-0.854666
С	-2.860816	0.944313	-0.243089	Н	-5.970065	2.247222	-0.710385
С	-3.257902	-0.350798	0.147719	Н	-4.789168	-1.765106	0.525035
0	-2.307997	-1.28865	0.456899	Н	-7.692542	1.308905	-1.284632
С	-0.940597	-1.044747	0.412768	Н	-8.84553	0.107402	-0.751751
С	-3.894288	1.858536	-0.553855	Н	-6.693376	-1.794546	1.314855
С	-5.221258	1.499867	-0.476011	Н	-8.347276	-1.353257	0.954489
С	-5.614387	0.180325	-0.07822	Н	-9.313231	2.294648	0.349168
С	-4.583069	-0.742507	0.232022	Н	-8.854367	1.089493	1.567541
Ν	-6.934916	-0.172999	0.000988	Н	-7.683877	2.318457	1.054253
С	-8.013407	0.732979	-0.411179	Η	-7.769947	-3.510934	-0.154131
С	-7.358311	-1.48491	0.502264	Н	-8.125194	-2.27669	-1.377982
С	-8.491349	1.664647	0.708392	Н	-6.444793	-2.731785	-1.041978
С	-7.425586	-2.563781	-0.585002	Н	6.882826	-0.528675	-2.361364
0	-0.228343	-1.988581	0.716498	Н	8.980622	-0.553231	-1.01407
С	4.197492	-0.324251	-1.181602	Η	8.875278	-0.352903	1.457984
С	5.616635	-0.305186	-0.62871	Н	6.69952	-0.114226	2.623095
С	5.564558	-0.199057	0.771641	Н	4.52475	-0.062782	-3.305971
N	4.232185	-0.106018	1.209299	Н	2.939828	0.497409	-2.756039
С	3.509229	1.818998	-0.036544	Н	4.392684	1.469784	-2.430326
С	6.835743	-0.441861	-1.276284	Η	2.719538	-1.846114	-1.742645
С	8.017462	-0.458059	-0.516332	Н	4.401596	-2.259447	-2.128924
С	7.955911	-0.346262	0.874059	Н	3.830457	-2.365353	-0.454627
С	6.728738	-0.211253	1.540346	Н	2.847192	0.372435	2.692205
С	4.002645	0.449593	-2.490515	Н	4.41338	-0.19819	3.288559
С	3.752306	-1.790049	-1.382331	Н	4.25938	1.464208	2.662543
С	3.926933	0.422151	2.53025				



С	-7.491308	-0.422116	0.034142	Н	-8.490496	1.485621	0.173079
С	-7.533677	0.971037	0.123812	Н	-6.389331	2.791541	0.220522
С	-6.345867	1.707216	0.150697	Н	-6.285501	-2.216923	-0.100871
С	-5.150496	0.997357	0.085527	Н	-2.905846	3.204115	-0.704239
С	-5.110616	-0.395506	-0.004549	Н	-4.388718	3.491673	0.230798
С	-6.286629	-1.130556	-0.031605	Н	-2.880651	3.089604	1.079875
N	-3.820219	1.4835	0.094403	Н	-2.34652	-1.915933	-1.469467
С	-2.923315	0.484107	0.015813	Н	-4.028102	-2.470733	-1.464976
С	-3.665045	-0.85672	-0.060422	Н	-3.604203	-0.938291	-2.253442
С	-3.474351	2.903266	0.180398	Н	-2.300782	-2.09772	1.141556
С	-3.386496	-1.586186	-1.398681	Н	-3.522425	-1.23435	2.097655
С	-3.340691	-1.760518	1.155334	Н	-3.983918	-2.645961	1.126207
С	-1.539499	0.755584	0.011094	Н	-1.233132	1.791116	0.071082
С	-0.536722	-0.190018	-0.063307	Н	-0.801121	-1.242358	-0.12395
С	0.86972	0.045392	-0.070181	Н	1.328626	-2.050005	-0.204428
С	1.744796	-1.041834	-0.149863	Н	3.698763	-2.972068	-0.28753
С	3.132826	-0.883909	-0.162869	Н	6.086391	-2.569171	-0.294338
С	3.66325	0.429683	-0.09067	Н	5.324127	1.729767	-0.021958
0	2.818393	1.502127	-0.007943	Н	7.906774	-2.049758	-0.814048
С	1.436038	1.395906	0.005953	Н	9.188974	-0.896099	-0.603036
С	4.071865	-1.949738	-0.237461	Н	7.240395	1.861684	-0.82231
С	5.420965	-1.716253	-0.242764	Н	7.466992	1.63707	0.912719
С	5.949679	-0.377382	-0.182536	Н	9.245436	-2.583113	1.226066
С	5.015345	0.694457	-0.09378	Н	8.906257	-0.979477	1.905197
N	7.289353	-0.138878	-0.21297	Н	7.592989	-2.154992	1.712332
С	8.256871	-1.246633	-0.160774	Н	9.45922	2.54492	-0.163808
С	7.766204	1.257133	-0.074612	Н	9.868143	0.958036	0.491448
С	8.511672	-1.769856	1.257392	Н	9.605308	1.165434	-1.257999
С	9.265007	1.47175	-0.263411	Cl	-9.006359	-1.320477	0.002722
0	0.825274	2.44639	0.081129				

# Cartesian Coordinates (in Å) of $3\text{--}CN^-$



С	2.773822	0.434981	0.158908	N	2.948443	3.055731	-0.229505
С	1.339243	-0.010551	0.312131	Н	1.222571	-0.999748	0.736838
С	0.262241	0.708898	-0.053393	Н	0.412443	1.70784	-0.467788
С	-1.146061	0.331149	0.027854	Н	-1.808996	2.187123	-0.789221
С	-2.114861	1.215356	-0.397048	Н	-4.277902	2.756209	-1.164692
С	-3.497671	0.913401	-0.346606	Н	-6.613456	2.110742	-1.009628
С	-3.884653	-0.342533	0.164267	Н	-5.40327	-1.737124	0.649332
0	-2.92859	-1.228372	0.586925	Н	-8.31016	1.096049	-1.517619
С	-1.564453	-0.966044	0.54957	Н	-9.455284	-0.071102	-0.899384
С	-4.537037	1.774474	-0.769483	Н	-7.324235	-1.724457	1.391197
С	-5.859955	1.403261	-0.684358	Н	-8.975729	-1.349021	0.953446
С	-6.24295	0.123538	-0.164911	Н	-9.991242	2.195975	-0.02001
С	-5.20548	-0.745945	0.258972	Н	-9.531501	1.125534	1.318019
N	-7.559381	-0.242641	-0.079601	Н	-8.378059	2.326994	0.710135
С	-8.642352	0.5997	-0.600855	Н	-8.339796	-3.593585	0.072877
С	-7.974536	-1.506768	0.53803	Н	-8.685928	-2.489981	-1.272246
С	-9.163389	1.623647	0.414056	Н	-7.006756	-2.880875	-0.858049
С	-8.000193	-2.686684	-0.440457	Н	6.324512	-0.664911	-2.040504
0	-0.845472	-1.861731	0.963314	Н	8.206371	-0.008694	1.78596
С	3.600794	-0.350677	-0.966115	Н	5.996356	0.342758	2.854737
С	5.001701	-0.247096	-0.378036	Н	3.988347	-0.340476	-3.096979
С	4.906809	0.02555	0.997845	Н	2.383248	0.259676	-2.66091
N	3.565997	0.156132	1.381504	Н	3.815812	1.283849	-2.413674
С	2.853083	1.904318	-0.107073	Н	2.161283	-1.951169	-1.384207
С	6.234579	-0.447485	-0.97797	Н	3.859283	-2.382659	-1.665766
С	7.378103	-0.355634	-0.172932	Н	3.234082	-2.297099	-0.00939
С	7.299641	-0.080943	1.189538	Н	2.129631	0.773627	2.759713
С	6.049908	0.117613	1.792411	Н	3.68351	0.298393	3.462649
С	3.438312	0.258509	-2.36305	Н	3.527701	1.878304	2.649084
С	3.180829	-1.837369	-1.001153	Cl	8.969001	-0.587899	-0.918818
С	3.213067	0.823064	2.626073		1		