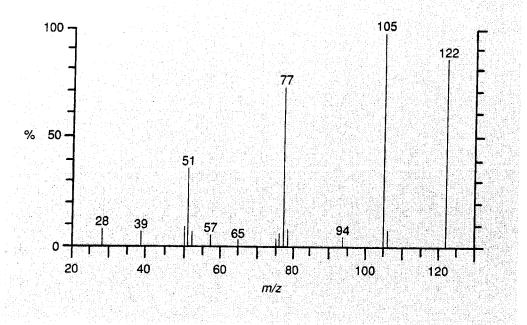
## Question

Look at the mass spectra of benzoic acid (Figure 108) and methyl benzoate (Figure 109) and identify the ions responsible for the major peaks in each case.

Figure 108

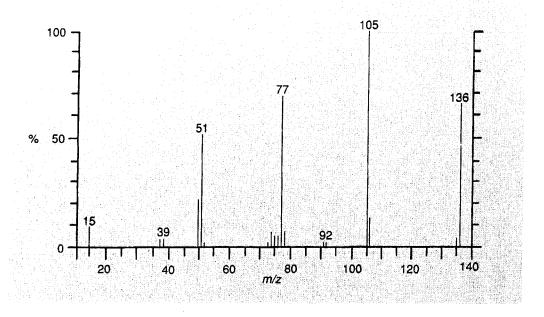


## Answer

The four major peaks in the mass spectrum of benzoic acid are:

| m/z | Ion responsible                                 |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------|
| 122 | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> COOH <sup>+</sup> |
| 105 | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CO <sup>+</sup>   |
| 77  | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> <sup>+</sup>      |
| 51  | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup>      |

Figure 109



The four major peaks in the mass spectrum of methyl benzoate are:

| m/z | Ion responsible                                    |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------|
| 136 | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> COOCH <sub>3</sub> + |
| 105 | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CO <sup>+</sup>      |
| 77  | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> <sup>+</sup>         |
| 51  | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup>         |