

P R E F A C E

Scope and Object of the Work

The majority of reactions that are of chemical or biological interest occur in solution. It was previously believed that the solvent merely provides an inert medium for chemical reactions. The significance of solute-solvent interactions was realized only recently as a result of extensive studies in aqueous and non-aqueous solvents. While proton transfer reactions are particularly sensitive to the nature of the solvent, it has become increasingly clear that the majority of the solutes are significantly modified by all solvents. Conversely, the nature of strongly structured solvents, such as water, is substantially modified by the presence of solutes. Complete understanding of the phenomena of solution chemistry will become a reality only when solute-solute, solute-solvent and solvent-solvent interactions are elucidated¹.

In spite of vast collections of data on the different electrolytic and non-electrolytic solutions in water, the structure of water and the different types of interactions that water undergoes with electrolytes are yet to be properly understood. However, the studies on properties of aqueous solutions have provided sufficient information on the thermodynamic properties of different electrolytes and non-electrolytes, the effects of variation in ionic structure, ionic-mobility and common ions on the properties of aqueous solutions and a host of other properties^{2,3}. Nevertheless, during recent years there has been an increasing interest in

(II)

the behaviour of electrolytes in non-aqueous and mixed solvents with a view to investigating ion-ion and ion-solvent interactions under varied conditions. However, different sequence of solubility, differences in solvating power and possibilities of chemical or electrochemical reactions unfamiliar in aqueous chemistry have open new vistas for physical chemists, and interest in these organic solvents transcends the traditional boundaries of inorganic, physical, organic, analytical and electrochemistry.⁴

We are mainly interested in the studies of the ion-solvent interactions as they are the controlling forces in dilute solutions where ion-ion interactions are absent. Influence of these ion-solvent interactions on transfer of electrolytes between solvents is small, but sufficiently large to cause dramatic changes in chemical reactions involving ions. The changes in ionic solvation have important applications in such diverse areas as organic and inorganic synthesis, studies of reaction mechanisms, non-aqueous battery technology, and extraction.⁵ The importance of ionic hydration in biochemistry and biophysics has been stressed.⁶

The applications and implications of the studies of reactions in non-aqueous and mixed solvents have been summarized by Neck,⁷ Franks,^{8,9} Popovich,¹⁰ Bates,^{11,12} Parker,^{13,14} Criss and Salomon,¹⁵ and others¹⁵⁻¹⁸. The ion-ion and ion-solvent interactions have been subject of wide interest

as apparent from the discussions of Faraday Transactions of
19
the Chemical Society .

The mixed and non-aqueous solvents are increasingly used in chromatography, solvent extraction, in the elucidation of reaction mechanisms, in preparing high-density batteries, etc.

The proper understanding of the ion-solvent interactions would form the basis of explaining quantitatively the influence of the solvent and the extent of interactions of ions in solvents and thus pave the way for real understanding of the different phenomena associated with solution chemistry. Estimates of ion-solvent interactions can be obtained thermodynamically and also from the measurements of partial molar volumes, viscosity B-coefficients and limiting ionic conductivity studies.

However, single-ion values can not be obtained thermodynamically, therefore various theoretical and semi-empirical extra thermodynamic assumption have been made to estimate them.

Estimates of single-ion values enable us to refine our models of ion-solvent interactions. Acceptable values of the ion-solvent interactions would enable the chemists to choose solvent that will enhance (i) the rates of chemical reactions, (ii) the solubility of minerals in leaching operations, or reverse the direction of equilibrium reactions etc.

It is thus apparent that the real understanding of the ion-solvent interactions is a difficult task. The aspect embraces a wide range of topics but we concentrated only on the measurements of transport properties like viscosity and conductivity.

Attempts have been made to determine the single-ion values by the use of available methods and to elucidate the various aspects of ion-solvent interactions.

These are described in the subsequent chapters.

Summary of the works done

2-methoxyethanol (ME), 1,2-dimethoxyethane (DME) and aqueous mixtures of 2-methoxy ethanol have been chosen as the solvent systems in the present study.

Both ME and DME are known²⁰ to be intramolecularly hydrogen bonded, ME ($\epsilon = 16.93$)²¹ having the cis conformation and DME as trans preferable conformation. DME with $\epsilon = 7.075$ ²² and $\mu = 1.71$ ²³ is an aprotic etheral solvent. ME ($\mu = 2.18D$)²⁴ is an alkoxyethane thus exhibiting properties of alcohols and ethers at the same time. The solvent is expected to be intermediate between EG and DME in behaviour. It is potentially a protic solvent due to -OH group present; at the same time intramolecular hydrogen-bonding would impart some aprotic character to it, restricting the availability of the hydroxy proton and thus "quasi-protic" ME is expected to show some properties characteristic of aprotic solvents.

The present dissertation has been divided into IX chapters.

Chapter I forms the background of the present work. After presenting a brief review of notable works in the field of ion-solvent interactions, the discussion centres around the viscosity B-coefficients, its division and temperature dependence. The apportioning of B-coefficient into individual ionic contributions leads to a great deal of controversy, since no thermodynamic procedure could realise such quantities. Detailed discussion on the relative merits and demerits and on the various assumption employed from time to time have been presented. The importance and utility of the viscosity and conductivity methods in the determination of ion-solvent interactions are stressed. Critical evaluations of the different methods of obtaining the single-ion values and their implications have been made. The solvent properties are then discussed, stressing the importance of such work.

In Chapter II the different experimental techniques for obtaining the results presented in the dissertation have been described.

Chapter III entails the studies on viscosity B-coefficients of alkali-metal chlorides and bromides in 2-methoxy ethanol (ME) at 25 and 35°C. The experimental results have been analysed using Feakins et al equation²⁵ instead of Jones-Dole equation²⁶ because of the strong association of the electrolytes in this medium. The B-coefficients of the

electrolytes have been apportioned into individual ionic contributions using the 'reference electrolytes' viz. Bu_4NBPh_4 and Bu_4NBBu_4 . Ionic B-coefficients have also been analysed on the basis of Einstein's equation and structural contributions. Ion-solvent interactions have also been discussed in terms of transition-state treatment of viscous flow.

Chapter IV describes the determination of the relative viscosities of solutions of alkali-metal bromides, sodium tetraphenyl borate and tetrabutylammonium bromide in ME + Water mixtures at 25° and 35° C. The experimental results have been analysed by Jones-Dole and Peakins et al equations²⁵. The thermodynamic parameters of the salts have been determined by using the transition-state treatment and the temperature coefficient measurements. The ionic B-coefficients and other single-ion parameters have been determined by appropriate division of 'reference electrolyte' Bu_4NBPh_4 . The results are discussed in terms of structural changes of the solvent mixtures.

Chapter V describes the studies on the conductances of alkali-metal chlorides and bromides in 2-methoxyethanol (ME) at 25° C. The data have been analysed by means of the Fuoss conductance equation²⁷ in terms of the limiting molar conductivity, Λ^0 , the association constant, K_A , and the association distance R. The limiting ion conductances have also been calculated from Λ^0 -values of the 'reference electrolytes' Bu_4NBBu_4 and Bu_4NBPh_4 and the results compared with previous work on similar systems.

(VII)

In Chapter VI conductance measurements are reported for alkali-metal chlorides and bromides, sodium tetraphenylborate and tetrabutylammonium bromide in 2-methoxy ethanol + water mixtures (20, 30, 40, 60, 80 and 90 wt% of ME) at 25 °C. The data have been analysed by the 1978 Fuoss conductance equation and the characteristic parameters Λ° , K_A and R have been evaluated. The single ion conductances have been determined using the 'reference electrolyte' Bu_4NBH_4 . The ionic Walden products have been determined and its variations with solvent composition discussed.

Chapter VII gives the conductances of the tetraalkylammonium bromides, R_4NBr ($\text{R} = \text{C}_4\text{H}_9$ to C_7H_{15}) in 1,2-dimethoxyethane (DME) at 25 °C. The conductance data have been analysed using the Fuoss-Kraus theory²⁸ yielding values for the ion-pair and triple-ion formation constants.

It is fairly well known that solvents play a significant role in chemical reactions. Information on ion-solvent and ion-ion interactions in solutions can be obtained from the vibrational spectra and this has been presented in Chapter VIII.

The dissertation ends with some concluding remarks in Chapter IX.

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