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### Research paper

# An empirical relation between the limiting ionic molar conductivities and self-diffusion coefficients of pure solvents

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#### ABSTRACT

The limiting ionic molar conductivity  $(\lambda_{\infty})$  of an electrolyte solution depends on the self-diffusion coefficient  $(D_s)$  of the pure solvent when the temperature (T) changes. To study the  $D_s$ -dependence of  $\lambda_{\infty}$ , we proposed a new empirical relation  $\lambda_{\infty} \propto (D_s/T)^t$ , with a parameter t. The relation is applied to the  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$  of alkali, tetra-alkyl ammonium, and halogen ions in water or methanol. All ions except for tetra-alkyl ammonium ions in water exhibit excellent linear relationships in their  $\lambda_{\infty} \propto (D_s/T)^t$  plots, with t in the range from 0.88 to 1.26. This is the first report showing an affirmative linear correlation between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$ .

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### 1. Introduction

The limiting molar conductivity  $\lambda_{\infty}$  (S m<sup>2</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup>) of an ion is a physical quantity often used in the fields of electrochemistry and solution chemistry; it is a measure of the performance of electrolyte solutions [1]. The relationship between the limiting molar conductivity and viscosity  $\eta_s$  (Pa s) of pure solvents has attracted much attention [2]. This is probably because of unusual behavior in the ionic-radius dependence or temperature dependence of the Walden product  $\lambda_{\infty}\eta_s$ , which is a component of the famous empirical formula, the Walden rule [1]. For example, according to a simple hydrodynamic model [2], the limiting molar conductivity in an electrolyte solution is inversely proportional to the viscosity  $\eta_s$  and the hydrodynamic radius *r* of an ion:

$$\lambda_{\infty} = |z|^2 eF/(6\pi\eta_s r), \tag{1}$$

where z is the electric charge of the ion, e is the elementary charge, and F is the Faraday constant. If the radius r in Eq. (1) is independent of the solution temperature, we expect that the product  $\lambda_{\infty}\eta_{\rm S}$  should also not depend on the temperature. However, the Walden product of ions, such as K<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, and NO<sub>3</sub>, in water decreases with increasing temperature [1]. As a result, based on the model, the temperature dependence of the Walden product led to the development of several theoretical expressions between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $\eta_{\rm S}$  [3], although the hydrodynamic model failed to explain the temperature dependence of the Walden product.



If an empirical relation between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$  (to be proposed later) holds for various electrolyte solutions, the relation can be employed for the following: if the limiting molar conductivity of an ion in an electrolyte solution is known for a given temperature, we can calculate the self-diffusion coefficient of a pure solvent in the solution at that temperature, and vice versa. The empirical relation between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$  should also be valid for theoretically calculated values of  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$ . Therefore, the experimental relation between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$  can be used to assess an approximate relation between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$ , as calculated by a method such as a molecular dynamics (MD) simulation [6,7]. In the next paper, we will assess the approximate relation between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$  in acetonitrile, as estimated by MD simulation.

In Section 2, we derive a new empirical relation between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$  using two existing relations between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $\eta_s$  and between  $D_s$  and  $\eta_s$ . Section 3 outlines the experimental values of  $\lambda_{\infty}$  for selected alkali cations (Li<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Rb<sup>+</sup>, Cs<sup>+</sup>), tetra-alkyl ammonium cations (R<sub>4</sub>N<sup>+</sup>, where R = Me, Et, or Pr), and halogen anions (Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>-</sup>) in ordinary water and for these ions except for Rb<sup>+</sup> and





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Cs<sup>+</sup> in methanol, together with the experimental values of  $\lambda_{\infty}$  for Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> in heavy water, D<sub>2</sub>O, as cited from other papers. Moreover, we will introduce the experimental values of  $D_s$ , measured by other researchers, for the three solvents. These experimental values will be used to determine the values of parameters in the empirical relation between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$ . Section 4 shows an assessment of the proposed empirical relation based on the experimental data introduced in the Section 3. In general, the experimental relation between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$  is found to exhibit excellent linearity.

#### 2. Theory

The empirical relation between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$  was constructed by combining two existing empirical relations between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $\eta_s$ , and between  $D_s$  and  $\eta_s$ . The former relation is a revised Walden product [1] between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $\eta_s$ , which is defined as:

$$\lambda_{\infty}(\eta_s)^b = a. \tag{2}$$

The symbols a (S m<sup>2</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup>) and b are parameters determined by fitting this equation to experimental values of  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $\eta_s$ . Note that the viscosity  $\eta_s$  in Eq. (2) is divided by 1 Pa s and that the term inside the parentheses in Eq. (2) is dimensionless. The exponent b represents the deviation from the Walden product  $\lambda_{\infty}\eta_s$ . Equation (2) has been previously used to study the effects of adding sucrose, glycerol, and mannitol to aqueous solutions [1]. The latter relation between  $D_s$  and  $\eta_s$  is a revised Stokes-Einstein relation, given by

$$D_s/T = c/(\eta_s)^a, \tag{3}$$

where c (m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>) and d are parameters and T (K) is temperature. The two parameters are determined by matching Eq. (3) to experimental values of  $D_s$  and  $\eta_s$ . For the same reason as in Eq. (2), the term inside the parentheses on the right hand side of Eq. (3) is dimensionless. The exponent d in Eq. (3) indicates the deviation from the Stokes-Einstein relation [2], defined by  $D_s = kT/(6\pi\eta_s r_s)$ , where k is the Boltzmann constant and  $r_s$  is the Stokes radius of a solvent molecule. Equation (3) has been previously applied [8] to examine the linear relationships between the self-diffusion coefficients and viscosities of many molecules such as water, alcohols, and hydrocarbons.

Substituting Eq. (3) for  $\eta_s$  in Eq. (2) yields the following new empirical relations, with parameters *q* and *t*, between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$ :

$$\lambda_{\infty} = q(D_s/T)^t, \tag{4a}$$

$$\ln(\lambda_{\infty}) = \ln(q) + t \ln(D_s/T), \tag{4b}$$

where t = b/d and  $q = a/c^t$ . The experimental values of  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$  can be conveniently fitted into Eq. (4b) when we determine the values of parameters q and t. Using Eq. (4b), we investigated the linear correlations between  $\lambda_{\infty}$  and  $D_s$  for selected alkali cations (Li<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Rb<sup>+</sup>, Cs<sup>+</sup>), tetra-alkyl ammonium cations (Me<sub>4</sub>N<sup>+</sup>, Et<sub>4</sub>N<sup>+</sup>, Pr<sub>4</sub>N<sup>+</sup>), and halogen anions (Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, l<sup>-</sup>) in ordinary water and for these ions except for Rb<sup>+</sup> and Cs<sup>+</sup> in methanol along with Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> in D<sub>2</sub>O.

### 3. Materials and methods

For an electrolyte solution containing ordinary water as a solvent, measurements of  $\lambda_{\infty}$  have been previously conducted for Li<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup> at 5 °C, 15 °C, 25 °C, 35 °C, 45 °C, 55 °C, and 100 °C and for Rb<sup>+</sup>, Cs<sup>+</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>-</sup> at 5 °C, 15 °C, 25 °C, 35 °C, 45 °C, and 55 °C [1]. The measurements were reported to three from five significant figures, and the experimental errors of  $\lambda_{\infty}$  were less than 0.9%. For the R<sub>4</sub>N<sup>+</sup> tetra-alkyl ammonium cations,  $\lambda_{\infty}$  has been previously measured at five temperatures (5 °C, 10 °C, 15 °C, 20 °C, and 25 °C) [9]. The experimental values were reported to four significant figures and the errors were less than 0.9%.

Seven experimental values of  $D_s$  for ordinary water were taken from Mills' paper [10]; their measurement temperatures were 1 °C, 4 °C, 5 °C, 15 °C, 25 °C, 35 °C, and 45 °C, and the selfdiffusion coefficients were reported to four significant figures and the experimental errors were approximately 0.2%. To obtain the self-diffusion coefficients of ordinary water corresponding to  $\lambda_\infty$  of  $R_4 N^+$  at 10 °C and 20 °C, we compared a quadratic polynomial,  $D_s = f_1(T/K)^2 + f_2(T/K) + f_3$ , with an Arrhenius-type function,  $\ln(D_s) = g_1/T + g_2$ , where the coefficients  $f_1$ ,  $f_2$ , and  $f_3$  ( $g_1$  and  $g_2$ ) were determined by fitting the above seven experimental selfdiffusion coefficients into the quadratic polynomial (the Arrhenius-type function). For the quadratic polynomial, fitting of the seven experimental  $D_s$  values into the quadratic polynomial resulted in  $f_1 = 3.484 \times 10^{-13} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $f_2 = -1.512 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , and  $f_3 = 1.641 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The largest and smallest deviations from the quadratic polynomial were 0.8% (4 °C) and 0.1% (25 °C). respectively, and the average deviation was 0.4%. For the Arrhenius-type function, we obtained  $g_1 = -2.257 \times 10^3$  K, and  $g_2 = -12.34$ . The largest and smallest deviations from the Arrhenius-type function were found to be 2.4% (15 °C) and 0.3% (5 °C), respectively, and the average deviation was 1.3%. By comparing the fitting errors of the quadratic polynomial with those of the Arrhenius-type function, we used the self-diffusion coefficients of ordinary water at 10 °C and 20 °C, as calculated using the quadratic polynomial. Finally, we obtained values of 1.530  $\times$  10<sup>-9</sup> m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at 10 °C and 2.026  $\times$  10<sup>-9</sup> m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at 20 °C for ordinary water. The errors of these values are considered to be approximately equal to those of the experimental values. We also used two experimental values of D<sub>s</sub> for ordinary water at 55 °C and 100 °C [11], whose errors were about 1%.

For Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> in heavy water, D<sub>2</sub>O, these  $\lambda_{\infty}$  values were calculated with empirical equations in Refs. [12] and [13], respectively, at 5 °C, 15 °C, 25 °C, 40 °C, 45 °C, and 55 °C. These errors are probably less than 1%. We used the  $D_s$  values in Ref. [10] at 5 °C, 25 °C, and 45 °C with an error of about 0.2%, and in Ref. [14] at 15 °C, 40 °C, and 55 °C with an error of about 2%.

For the  $\lambda_{\infty}$  values of ions in methanol, the experimental values of four cations (Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Me<sub>4</sub>N<sup>+</sup>, Pr<sub>4</sub>N<sup>+</sup>) and three anions (Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>-</sup>) were taken from Ref. [15]. The values of  $\lambda_{\infty}$  for these seven ions were measured at -15 °C, -5 °C, 15 °C, and 25 °C [15]. The values were reported to four significant figures and the experimental errors were about 0.1%.

For Li<sup>+</sup> in methanol, we calculated the limiting molar conductivities of Li<sup>+</sup>,  $\lambda_{\infty}$ (Li<sup>+</sup>), using the limiting molar conductivities of LiI,  $\Lambda_{\infty}$ (Lil), at 0 °C, 25 °C, 35 °C, 47.4 °C, and 56.9 °C, as taken from Ref. [16]. These values were reported to two or three significant figures and had an experimental error of about 1%. We also used values for I<sup>–</sup>,  $\lambda_{\infty}$ (I<sup>–</sup>), measured at -15 °C to 25 °C, as taken from Ref. [15]. The calculations were based on the law of independent migration of ions [17]. This law is expressed by  $\Lambda_{\infty}(\alpha\beta) = \lambda_{\infty}(\alpha^+)$ +  $\lambda_{\infty}(\beta^{-})$  in the case of monovalent ions  $\alpha^{+}$  and  $\beta^{-}$ . We interpolated and extrapolated  $\lambda_{\infty}(I^{-})$  at the five temperatures from 0 °C to 56.9 °C [16] with the five experimental values of  $\lambda_{\infty}(I^{-})$  from -15 °C to 25 °C [15] and an Arrhenius-type function,  $ln(\lambda_{\infty}) = h_1/T + h_2$ . This function has often been used [18] to predict temperature dependency of  $\lambda_{\infty}$  for various ions. The coefficients  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  were determined by fitting the five experimental  $\lambda_{\infty}(I^{-})$  from -15 °C to 25 °C[15] into the function, yielding  $h_1 = -1162$  K and  $h_2 = -1.175$ . The largest and smallest deviations of the experimental  $\lambda_{\infty}(I^{-})$  values at -15 °C, -5 °C, 5 °C, 15 °C, and 25 °C from the Arrhenius-type function were 0.11% (5 °C) and 0.02% (-5 °C), respectively, and the average deviation was 0.06%. Because the Arrhenius-type function reproduces the values of experimental  $\lambda_{\infty}(I^{-})$  well, we used this function to calculate the five  $\lambda_{\infty}(I^-)$  values from 0 °C to 56.9 °C. The values of  $\lambda_{\infty}(I^{-})/10^{-4}$  S m<sup>2</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup> obtained using the function were: 43.92 (0 °C), 62.74 (25 °C), 71.19 (35 °C), 82.37 (47.4 °C),

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