## PCCP

## PAPER

Check for updates

Cite this: Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys., 2021, 23, 3311

# Properties of the *tert*-butyl halide solvolysis transition states<sup>†</sup>

Michael H. Abraham, () \*<sup>a</sup> Filomena Martins, () \*<sup>b</sup> Ruben Elvas-Leitão () <sup>bc</sup> and Luís Moreira<sup>bd</sup>

We have obtained properties (or descriptors) of the transition states in the solvolysis of *tert*-butyl chloride, bromide and iodide. We show that all three transition states, in both protic and in aprotic solvents, are highly dipolar and are strong hydrogen bond acids and strong hydrogen bond bases, except for the *tert*-butyl iodide transition state in aprotic solvents, which has a rather low hydrogen bond acidity. Thus, the transition states are stabilized by solvents that are hydrogen bond bases (nucleophiles) and are hydrogen bond acids (electrophiles). We show also that the partition of the transition states between water and solvents is aided by both nucleophilic and electrophilic solvents and conclude that the rate of solvolysis of the three halides is increased by both nucleophilic and electrophilic solvents.

Received 27th September 2020, Accepted 25th January 2021

DOI: 10.1039/d0cp05099g

rsc.li/pccp

## 1 Introduction

Although the mechanism of solvolysis of tert-butyl chloride has been studied for the past 85 years,<sup>1</sup> questions about the mechanism still remain unsettled, especially whether or not there is nucleophilic assistance by solvents. Gajewski<sup>2</sup> has referred to this solvolysis as "...the most misunderstood reaction in organic chemistry" and has put forward arguments based on his multiple parameter equation<sup>3</sup> that there is no positive nucleophilic solvent participation in the solvolysis. Dvorko et al.<sup>4-7</sup> used the multi-parameter Koppel-Palm equation to reach a similar conclusion for the solvolysis of tert-butyl chloride, as did Ponomarev et al.8 for the solvolysis of tert-butyl bromide and *tert*-butyl iodide.<sup>9</sup> Indeed, these workers<sup>4-8</sup> suggest that there is a small negative effect of nucleophilic solvation in the solvolysis of the three halides in protic solvents. However, it should be mentioned that Serebryakov<sup>10</sup> regards the various correlation analyses<sup>4-8</sup> to be unsound. Application of the multiparameter Kamlet-Taft equation to rate constants for the *tert*-butyl chloride solvolysis also indicated<sup>11-13</sup> that there was no, or little, positive nucleophilic assistance, as also suggested by Farcasiu

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry, University College London, 20 Gordon St, London WC1H 0AJ, UK. E-mail: m.h.abraham@ucl.ac.uk

<sup>b</sup> Centro de Química Estrutural (CQE), Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa, Campo Grande, Edifício C8, 1749-016, Lisboa, Portugal.



ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY

**View Article Online** 

The tert-butyl halide transition states are generally regarded to be somewhere in between the relatively non-polar tert-butyl halides and the polar tert-butyl halide ion pairs, with the leaving halide atom in the transition state C···X bond carrying a partial negative charge. Then electrophilic solvents (hydrogen bond acids) can solvate the leaving halide, leading to a reduction in the energy of the transition state and to an increase in the rate constant. There will also be a corresponding partial positive charge on the carbon atom of the C···X bond - as shown in Scheme 1 for hydroxylic solvents. Then nucleophilic solvents (hydrogen bond bases) would be expected to solvate this area of the transition state, leading again to an increase in the rate constant. But according to various workers,<sup>2-9,11-14</sup> there is no rate enhancement due to nucleophilic solvents, and hence there must be no nucleophilic solvation of the transition state. Dvorko et al.<sup>6</sup> rationalized the lack of nucleophilic assistance as being due to an intermediate ion pair that they described as R<sup>-</sup>[O]X<sup>-</sup> but this does not seem to make the cause of the lack of nucleophilic assistance any clearer.

We have set out a multi-parameter equation,<sup>19–22</sup> that we have used to obtain information on the properties of a large number





E-mail: filomena.martins@ciencias.ulisboa.pt

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Área Departamental de Engenharia Química, Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa, IPL, R. Conselheiro Emídio Navarro, 1959-007 Lisboa, Portugal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup> Instituto Superior de Educação e Ciências (ISEC Lisboa), Alameda das Linhas de Torres, 174, 1750-142 Lisboa, Portugal

<sup>†</sup> In memoriam of Professor Michael H. Abraham, who passed away on January

<sup>19</sup>th, 2021, during the revision of this manuscript.

#### Paper

of neutral compounds from the effects of solvents on compound solubilities or on compound water–solvent partitions. More recently, we have extended the equations to ionic compounds such as permanent ions and ion-pairs.<sup>23,24</sup> Very relevant to the present study is the application to betaine<sup>25</sup> and to amino-acids.<sup>26</sup> In these cases, we found that the ionic form of the equation had to be used, in accordance with complete charge separation in these compounds. So application of our equations to the *tert*-butyl halide transition states may lead to information as to the extent of charge separation in the transition states, to the hydrogen-bond acidity (electrophilicity) and hydrogen-bond basicity (nucleophilicity) of the transition states, and hence to the role of solvent as a nucleophile (hydrogen bond base) and an electrophile (hydrogen bond acid).

## 2 Materials and Methods

#### 2.1 Materials

For experiments carried out in this work, *tert*-butyl chloride and *tert*-butyl bromide were purchased from BDH (purity > 99%) and *tert*-butyl iodide was purchased from Aldrich (purity > 95%). *tert*-Butyl iodide was regularly purified by column chromatography (Silica gel 60). Solvents were obtained commercially and used without further purification from Aldrich, Merck and Koch-Light (>99% + purity) and their water content was always <2% v/v. Solvent mixtures were prepared by volume using pure solvents and freshly collected double deionized water, obtained with a Milli-Q system from Millipore (Bedford, MA, USA) with a resistivity of 18.2 MΩ.

#### 2.2 Procedures

Kinetic curves were followed by conductimetry using an automated Wayne Kerr B905 conductance bridge. Temperature control was always better than  $\pm 0.01$  K. Substrate concentration was 0.01 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> and, whenever deemed necessary, 0.02 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> of 2,6-lutidine (a weak base) was added to the solvent to capture the produced acid and prevent its further reactivity. In some cases, calibration curves were performed. Reactions were followed up to 90% of the apparent plateau. Mean *k* values result from at least 3 different runs and showed a standard deviation better than 5%. All *k* values were determined using a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet specifically designed by us for this purpose.<sup>27,28</sup>

#### 2.3 Theory

Our method is based on eqn (1) and (2), set up for correlation of processes involving a given neutral solute in a variety of solvents.<sup>19–22</sup> The dependent variable is log *Ps*, where *Ps* is a water–solvent partition coefficient

$$Log Ps = c + eE + sS + aA + bB + \nu V$$
(1)

$$\log Ps = c + eE + sS + aA + bB + lL$$
(2)

The independent variables, or descriptors, are properties of the neutral solutes as follows.<sup>19–22</sup> *E* is the solute excess molar refraction in cm<sup>3</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup>/10, *S* is the solute dipolarity/polarizability,

*A* is the overall solute hydrogen bond acidity, *B* is the overall solute hydrogen bond basicity, *V* is the McGowan's characteristic molecular volume in cm<sup>3</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup>/100 and *L* is the logarithm of the gas to hexadecane partition coefficient at 298 K.

In the extension of eqn  $(1)^{23,24}$  to include permanent ions such as K<sup>+</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup>, ion pairs such as Me<sub>4</sub>N<sup>+</sup>Cl<sup>-</sup>, deprotonated carboxylic acids, RCO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, and protonated amines, the independent variables *E*, *S*, *A*, *B* and *V* were the same in eqn (1) and (3) so that only two extra variables were needed to incorporate the ionic solutes, *J*<sup>+</sup> for cationic solutes and *J*<sup>-</sup> for anionic solutes. Then eqn (1) becomes eqn (3), where *J*<sup>+</sup> = 0 for anions, *J*<sup>-</sup> = 0 for cations and *J*<sup>+</sup> = *J*<sup>-</sup> = 0 for neutral molecules.

$$Log Ps = c + eE + sS + aA + bB + vV + j^{+}J^{+} + j^{-}J^{-}$$
(3)

The coefficients in eqn (1) and (3) for various solvents are given in Table 1. $^{19-24}$ 

## 3 Results and discussion

Partition coefficients of the *tert*-butyl halide transition states, Tr, from water to solvents, as log *Ps*, were obtained from eqn (4), as described before<sup>29,30</sup>

$$Log Ps (Tr) = log Ps (tert-BuX) + log k(S) - log k(W)$$
(4)

Here, Ps (Tr) is the water (W) to solvent (S) partition coefficient of a *tert*-butyl halide transition state, log Ps (*tert*-BuX) is the water to solvent partition coefficient of the corresponding halide, and k(S) and k(W) are the *tert*-butyl halide rate constants in the solvent S and in water.

Thermodynamic data on the initial states were available,<sup>29–31</sup> and these in turn were used to derive the descriptors for the *tert*butyl halides in eqn (1) and in eqn (2), as set out in detail elsewhere.<sup>21,22,30</sup> The obtained values are in Table 2. In Table 3,  $K_w$  is the gas to water partition coefficient. There is nothing exceptional about the descriptors for the *tert*-butyl halides. In particular, they have zero electrophilicity (hydrogen-bond acidity, *A*) and very little nucleophilicity (hydrogen-bond basicity, *B*).

#### 3.1 tert-Butyl chloride

Several years ago we studied the structure of the *tert*-butyl chloride transition state using reaction field theory<sup>36</sup> Our results indicated that the transition state had decidedly different structures in protic and in aprotic solvents, and so it seems appropriate to apply our equations separately to data in protic and aprotic solvents. Rate constants at 298 K were obtained from various sources<sup>4,5,12,29–37</sup> and also in this work, and are given in Table 2 as log *k* in s<sup>-1</sup>. The corresponding values of the water to solvent partition coefficients as log *Ps*(Tr) were simply obtained through eqn (4).

Unfortunately, we only have 20 values of  $\log Ps(Tr)$  in aprotic solvents to use in eqn (3), rather too small a number to analyse using six independent variables in an LFER (the term in eE was not significant). However, we give details of eqn (1) and (3) 
 Table 1
 Coefficients in eqn (1) and (3) for water-solvent partition coefficients, as log Ps

Solvent	С	е	S	a	b	ν	$j^+$	$j^-$
Perfluorooctane	0.492	-0.051	-2.588	-3.424	-3.974	3.377		
Pentane	0.369	0.386	-1.568	-3.535	-5.215	4.514		
Heptane	0.297	0.634	-1.755	-3.571	-4.946	4.488		
Cyclohexane	0.159	0.784	-1.678	-3.740	-4.929	4.577		
Benzene	0.142	0.464	-0.588	-3.099	-4.625	4.491	2.004	0.000
Trichloromethane	0.319	0.102	-0.187	-3.058	-4.090	4.324	-3.984	0.086
1 2-Dichloroethane	0.191	0.105	-0.403	-3.112	-3.514	4.395	-3.155	-3.705
<i>tert</i> -Butyl chloride ( <i>n</i> -BuCl)	0.183	0.234	-0.134 -0.569	-2.918	-4.291 -4.883	4.180	4.100	-3.429
Diethyl ether	0.350	0.358	-0.820	-0.588	-4.956	4.350	0.434	-10.124
Dioxane	0.123	0.347	-0.033	-0.582	-4.810	4.110	-5.883	4.649
Tetrahydrofuran	0.223	0.363	-0.384	-0.238	-4.932	4.450	-2.278	-2.132
Ethyl acetate	0.328	0.369	-0.446	-0.700	-4.904	4.150	4.243	-2.232
Propanone	0.313	0.312	-0.121	-0.608	-4.753	3.942	-2.288	0.078
Cyclohexanone	0.077	0.249	0.028	-0.891	-4.917	4.283		
Acetonitrile	0.413	0.077	0.326	-1.566	-4.391	3.364	-2.234	0.101
Nitromethane	0.023	-0.091	0.793	-1.463	-4.364	3.460	-3.781	-0.149
<i>N</i> -Methylpyrrolidone	0.147	0.532	0.225	0.840	-4.794	3.674	-1.797	0.105
Dimethylsulfoxide	-0.194	0.327	0.791	1.260	-4.540	3.361	-3.387	0.132
Dimethyliomamide	-0.305	-0.058	0.343	0.358	-4.865	4.486	-3.605	0.415
Dimetnylacetamide	-0.2/1	0.084	0.209	0.915	-5.003	4.55/	-2.125	0.286
riopyiene cardonate	0.004	0.168	0.504	-1.283	-4.40/	3.421	-1.989	0.341
Chlorobenzene	0.000	0.147	0.601	-0.318	-4.541	3.290	-1.200	-0.792
Nitrobenzene	-0.152	0.581	-0.321	-3.165 -2.332	-4.700 -4.494	4.014	-4.330 -3.373	-1.480
Benzonitrile	0.097	0.285	0.059	-1.605	-4.562	4.028	-2.729	0.136
Acetophenone	0.177	0.365	0.000	-1.537	-4.658	3.958	20.23	01200
Aniline	-0.156	0.325	-0.006	1.289	-3.512	3.841		
N-Methylpropanamide								
<i>N</i> -Methylformamide	0.114	0.407	-0.287	0.542	-4.085	3.471	-3.733	3.869
Formamide	-0.171	0.070	0.308	0.589	-3.152	2.432	-3.152	2.432
Water	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Methanol	0.276	0.334	-0.714	0.243	-3.320	3.549	-2.609	3.027
Ethanol	0.222	0.471	-1.035	0.326	-3.596	3.857	-3.172	3.146
Propan-1-ol	0.139	0.405	-1.029	0.247	-3.767	3.986	-3.077	2.834
Butan-1-ol	0.165	0.401	-1.011	0.056	-3.958	4.044	-3.605	2.685
Heran-1-ol	0.150	0.536	-1.229	0.141	-3.864	4.077	-3.387	2.810
Hentan-1-ol	0.115	0.492	-1.104 -1.063	0.034	-3.978	4.131	-3.100	2.940
Octan-1-ol	-0.033	0.489	-1.003	-0.024	-4.342 -4.235	4.317	-3.310 -3.334	2.751
Ethylene glycol	-0.270	0.578	-0.511	0.715	-2.619	2.729	-1.300	2.363
1.2-Propylene glycol	-0.149	0.754	-0.966	0.684	-3.134	3.247	-1.381	3.057
Propan-2-ol	0.099	0.344	-1.049	0.406	-3.827	4.033	-3.896	2.889
sec-Butanol	0.127	0.253	-0.976	0.158	-3.882	4.114	-3.700	2.700
Isobutanol	0.188	0.354	-1.127	0.016	-3.568	3.986	-3.700	2.830
<i>tert</i> -Butanol	0.211	0.171	-0.947	0.331	-4.085	4.109	-4.455	2.953
2-Methylbutan-1-ol	0.104	0.400	-1.185	0.187	-3.921	4.151		
<i>tert</i> -Pentanol	0.177	0.316	-1.125	0.306	-4.112	4.178		
2-Methoxyethanol	0.175	0.326	-0.140	0.000	-4.086	3.630	-1.295	1.508
Trifluoroethanol	0.395	-0.094	-0.594	-1.280	-1.274	3.088	-1.113	0.957
HFIP	0.533	-0.901	-0.535	-0.539	-0.832	3.080		
Acetic acid $1000\%$ Etherol <sup>a</sup>	0.175	0.174	-0.454	-1.073	-2.789	3.725	2 170	2.146
100% Ethanol	0.222	0.4/1	-1.035	0.326	-3.596	3.857	-3.1/2	3.146
90	0.238	0.333	-0.833 -0.795	0.297	-3.555	3.724	-2.985	2 0/3
90	0.239	0.328	-0.795	0.294	-3.514	3.097	-2.985	2.943
80	0.243	0.215	-0.375 -0.465	0.202	-3 212	3 3 2 3	-2.794	2.037
70	0.063	0.085	-0.368	0.311	-2.936	3.102	-2.203	2.550
60	-0.040	0.138	-0.335	0.293	-2.675	2.812	-1.858	2.394
50	-0.142	0.124	-0.252	0.251	-2.275	2.415	-1.569	2.051
40	-0.221	0.131	-0.159	0.171	-1.809	1.918	-1.271	1.676
30	-0.269	0.107	-0.098	0.133	-1.316	1.414	-0.841	1.290
20	-0.252	0.042	-0.040	0.096	-0.823	0.916	-0.677	0.851
10	-0.173	-0.023	-0.001	0.065	-0.372	0.454	-0.412	0.401
0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
100% Methanol <sup>a</sup>	0.276	0.334	-0.714	0.000	-3.320	3.549	-2.609	3.027
95	0.270	0.278	-0.520	0.230	-3.368	3.365	-2.661	2.909
90	0.258	0.250	-0.452	0.229	-3.206	3.175	-2.629	2.707
80	0.172	0.197	-0.319	0.241	-2.912	2.842	-2.540	2.421
70	0.098	0.192	-0.260	0.266	-2.558	2.474	-2.267	2.164

#### Table 1 (continued)

Solvent	С	е	S	а	b	ν	$j^{+}$	$j^-$
60	0.053	0.207	-0.238	0.272	-2.157	2.073	-1.978	1.872
50	0.023	0.223	-0.222	0.264	-1.747	1.662	-1.588	1.569
40	0.020	0.222	-0.205	0.218	-1.329	1.259	-1.329	1.259
30	0.016	0.187	-0.172	0.165	-0.953	0.898	-0.823	0.930
20	0.022	0.142	-0.138	0.088	-0.574	0.559	-0.465	0.599
10% Methanol	0.012	0.072	-0.081	0.026	-0.249	0.266	-0.185	0.287
<sup><i>a</i></sup> Volume % alcohol.								

applied to exactly the same data set, as eqn (5) and (6) in Table 4. In eqn (5) and (6) and subsequent equations, *N* is the number of data points (solvents), SD is the regression standard deviation,  $R^2$  is the determination coefficient and *F* is the Fisher F-statistic. The leave-one-out statistics are PRESS,  $Q^2$  and the predictive standard deviation, PSD. The errors on the coefficients are in parentheses.

The small values of  $Q^2$  and the large values of PSD show that these equations are not well founded, but they indicate that the addition of the ionic descriptors in eqn (5) does not lead to any improvement over eqn (6).

More data are available for reactions in protic solvents and, in Table 5, we give equations that use exactly the same data set for eqn (1) and (3). Eqn (7) is marginally better statistically than eqn (8) but suffers from a set of chemically unreasonable coefficients. In particular, the *a*-coefficient is negative, which is technically impossible, and the *v*-coefficient is far too small to describe the solvent effect on a medium-sized species.

We conclude that the ionic eqn (3), when applied to the effect of protic solvents on the *tert*-butyl chloride transition state yields an inferior equation to the equation for 'neutral' compounds, eqn (1). Thus, in contrast to compounds such as betaine and the  $\alpha$ -aminoacids, these results indicate that the *tert*-butyl chloride transition state does not possess a complete charge separation, in agreement with the reaction field calculations, and other studies,<sup>36</sup> which suggest a charge separation of about 0.80 units in protic solvents.

Dvorko *et al.*<sup>4</sup> have suggested that the solvolysis of *tert*-butyl chloride in aprotic and in protic solvents is determined by the ionization of the covalent C–Cl bond. This involves consecutive formation of three ion pairs, a contact ion pair, a loose ion pair and a solvent separated ion pair, as shown in eqn (9). Now if the transition state does not carry a unit charge separation, it cannot lie between any of the suggested ion pairs but must lie between the RX substrate and the first ion pair. Then as regards the nature of the transition state, the various subsequent ion pairs are irrelevant.

$$RX = R^{+}X^{-} = R^{+} \cdots X^{-} = R^{+}/Solv/X^{-} \rightarrow Products$$
(9)

Another consequence is that we are no longer restricted to the set of equations of the form of eqn (3), but we can apply a much larger set of equations of the form of eqn (1) to solvent effects on the transition state. These equations are given in Table 6 as eqn (10) and (11) and include all the solvents for which we have the coefficients in eqn (1) and the corresponding rate constants.

As regards the effect of solvent hydrogen bond acidity, *a*, (solvent electrophilicity) and solvent hydrogen bond basicity, *b*, (nucleophilicity) on the partition of the transition state, eqn (10) and (11) are unambiguous. Solvent hydrogen bond basicity (nucleophilicity) greatly increases log *Ps*Tr. In both aprotic and protic solvents, the *b*-coefficient is very large. Solvent hydrogen bond acidity, *a*, (electrophilicity) also stabilizes the transition state, although now the effect is not so large (a = 0.591 and 0.655). Both sets of solvents stabilize the transition state through transition state-solvent dipole-dipole and dipole-induced dipole interactions (s = 2.338 and 3.295).

Eqn (10) and (11) can be interpreted in terms of properties or descriptors of the transition state, but we can employ our usual method<sup>19-21,38</sup> to obtain these directly. We construct a set of simultaneous equations with known values of c, e, s, a, b and v, see Table 1, and with values of log*Ps*Tr as the dependent variable. Then the set can be solved by trial-and-error to obtain the unknowns E, S, A, B and V. It is useful to estimate E as 0.20 (slightly larger than that for *tert*-butyl chloride) and V as 0.8000 (again, slightly larger than V for tert-butyl chloride at 0.7946), so that only S, A and B need to be determined. For aprotic solvents we have 26 simultaneous equations (we excluded N-methylformamide as a considerable outlier) that we solved with  $SD = 0.50 \log units$  to give the descriptors in Table 7. For protic solvents we solved 41 simultaneous equations with SD = 0.61 log units to yield the descriptors in Table 7. In general, the descriptors for the *tert*-butyl chloride transition state are quite compatible with our descriptors for various ions and ion-pairs, as shown in Table 7.

It is of some interest that the  $Me_4N^+$  ion is stabilized by solvents that are nucleophilic (hydrogen bond bases|), with A =0.68, see Table 7. This suggests that nucleophilic solvents can approach the central N<sup>+</sup> atom in spite of the adjacent four methyl groups. Thus, it is no surprise that the central carbon atom in the *tert*-butyl chloride transition state can also be approached and solvated by nucleophilic solvents, with A = 0.66 and 0.45, Table 7. We can conclude that the *tert*-butyl chloride transition state in both protic and in aprotic solvents is very dipolar (S =2.27 and 2.63), has a significant hydrogen bond acidity (A = 0.66and 0.45) and a large hydrogen bond basicity (B = 1.03 and 1.75), so that it will be stabilized by solvents that are hydrogen bond bases (nucleophiles) and that are hydrogen bond acids (electrophiles).

Table 2Rate constants, as  $\log k/s^{-1}$ , for solvolysis of the *tert*-butyl halidesat 298 K

	<i>tert</i> -But chloride	yl e	<i>tert</i> -But bromid	yl e	<i>tert</i> -Butyl iodide		
Solvent	Logk	Ref.	Log k	Ref.	Log k	Ref.	
Perfluorooctane	-16.16	36					
Pentane	-16.00	29	-13.30	11	-11.20	11	
Heptane	-16.00	36					
Cyclohexane	-14.50	36				~	
Benzene	-12.16	12			-6.56	6	
Dichloromethane	-10.45	12	-7.21	8	-7.04 -6.12	6	
Trichloromethane	-9.72	4	-7.47	6	0.12	0	
1,2-Dichloroethane	-9.54	12			-6.15	6	
tert-Butyl chloride (n-BuCl)	-13.6	4					
Diethyl ether	-12.74	12	-10.00	11	-8.20	11	
Dioxane	-10.80	5	-8.52	6	-6.78	11	
Tetranydrofuran Ethyl acetate	-11.00	12	-8.30	11	-6.57	11	
Propanone	-9.90	12	-7.13	6	-7.02 -5.21	11	
Cvclohexanone	-9.61	4	/.10	0	0.21		
Acetonitrile	-8.73	29	-5.90	6	-4.25	а	
Nitromethane	-8.13	4	-5.51	а	-3.89	а	
N-Methylpyrrolidone	-8.97	5	-6.00	6	-4.55	11	
Dimethylsulfoxide	-7.34	36	-4.45	a	-2.68	a	
Dimethylformamide	-8.55	12	-5.56	a	-3.70		
Propylene carbonate	-9.30	5 20	-5.92	a	-5.00	11 11	
Sulfolane	-6.61 -7.91	30 4	-5.47 -5.18	6	-4.02	11	
Fluorobenzene	7.51		0.10	0	-6.58	6	
Chlorobenzene	-11.34	12	-9.44	6	-6.58	6	
Bromobenzene					-6.59	6	
Iodobenzene					-6.51	6	
Nitrobenzene	-9.72	29	-6.95	6	-5.52	6	
Benzonitrile	-9.83	30 4	-7.11	6	-5.43	6	
Aniline	-10.13 -6.10	4 a	_3.84	a	-2.80	а	
<i>N</i> -Methylpropanamide	-0.10		-5.54	8	-2.80		
<i>N</i> -Methylformamide	-7.33	5	0101	0			
Formamide	-4.40	12	-2.85	6	-1.98	а	
Water	-1.54	12	-0.12	6	0.188	6	
Methanol	-6.10	12	-4.46	34	-3.910	34	
Ethanol	-/.0/	12	-5.24	3/	-4.650	34	
Butan-1-ol	-7.53	12	-5.44	6	-4.80	34	
Pentan-1-ol	-7.45	32	-5.64	32	-5.29	32	
Hexan-1-ol	-7.45	4	0101	02	0.25	02	
Octan-1-ol	-7.52	4					
Ethylene glycol	-4.60	5	-3.03	34	-2.55	34	
1,2-Propylene glycol	-5.51	32	-4.03	32	-3.56	32	
Propan-2-ol	-7.74	29	-5.67	34	-5.05	6	
sec-Butanol	-8.10	31 a	-5./8	6	-5.40	34	
<i>tert</i> -Butanol	-8.27	12	-6.32	6	-5.84	11	
2-Methylbutan-1-ol	$-7.60^{\circ}$	a	-5.71	a	-5.40	a	
tert-Pentanol	-8.77	5					
2-Methoxyethanol	$-6.63^{c}$	а	-4.75	а	-3.90	а	
Trifluoroethanol	-3.89	а	-2.62	6			
HFIP	-2.70	12	-1.45	6 and 12			
Acetic acid $1000\%$ Eth an $1^d$	-6.70	4	-5.52	6	4.65	2.4	
100% Ethanol	-7.07	12	-5.24	37 b	-4.65	$b^{34}$	
95	-6.32	35	-4.99 -4.62	b	-4.23	b	
90	-5.78	35	-4.15	37	-3.69	b	
80	-5.03	35	-3.44	37	-3.03	b	
70	-4.44	35	-2.87	b	-2.56	b	
60	-3.91	35	-2.42	37	-2.12	a	
50	-3.38	35	-1.88	υ h	-1.67	u h	
40	-2.84	35	-1.38	b	-1.15	b	
30	-2.31	35 25	-0.88	b	-0./32	b	
10	-1.72	35	-0.37 -0.33	b	-0.079	b	
- v	±•/ 4	00	0.00		0.079		

Table 2	(continued)
---------	-------------

	<i>tert</i> -But chloride	yl e	<i>tert</i> -But bromic	yl le	<i>tert</i> -Butyl iodide		
Solvent	Logk	Ref.	Logk	Ref.	Logk	Ref.	
0	-1.54	35	-0.12	33	0.188	33	
100% Methanol <sup>d</sup>	-6.10	12	-4.46	34	-3.903	34	
95	-5.530	33	-4.05	33	-3.553	33	
90	-4.859	33	-3.67	33	-3.221	33	
80	-4.032	33	-3.00	33	-2.627	33	
70	-3.412	33	-2.48	а	-2.107	33	
60	-2.964	33	-2.00	а	-1.653	33	
50	-2.598	33	-1.56	33	-1.254	33	
40	-2.304	33	-1.20	33	-0.900	33	
30	-2.060	33	-0.88	33	-0.582	33	
20	-1.859	33	-0.60	33	-0.299	33	
10% Methanol	-1.685	33	-0.34	33	-0.044	33	

<sup>*a*</sup> This work. <sup>*b*</sup> Values obtained by interpolation and by regression against  $\log k$  values for *tert*-butyl chloride. <sup>*c*</sup> Values obtained by temperature extrapolation. <sup>*d*</sup> Volume % alcohol.

Table 3 Descriptors for the tert-butyl halides

Compound	Ε	S	Α	В	V	L	Log K <sub>w</sub>
<i>tert</i> -Butyl chloride <i>tert</i> -Butyl bromide <i>tert</i> -Butyl iodide	0.142 0.305 0.589	0.300 0.320 0.320	$0.000 \\ 0.000 \\ 0.000$	0.030 0.065 0.070	0.7946 0.8427 0.9304	2.286 2.563 3.350	$-0.80 \\ -0.40 \\ -0.39$

These properties are quite consistent with the coefficients shown in eqn (10) and (11). The ground state is almost unaffected by nucleophilic and electrophilic solvents, see Table 3, where A = 0.00 and B = 0.03, and so the effect of nucleophilic solvents on stabilizing the transition state will inevitably lead to an increase in the rate constant.

Our conclusion is so contrary to the conclusions reached from the application of other multi-parameter equations to tertbutyl chloride rate constants, that we are obliged to discuss possible reasons. Gajewski<sup>2,3</sup> has used his linear free energy relationship to show that there is no positive nucleophilic solvent participation in the solvolysis and Dvorko et al.4-7 used the multi-parameter Koppel-Palm linear free energy relationship with similar results. Use of the Kamlet-Taft equation also indicated<sup>11-13</sup> that there was little nucleophilic solvent participation. However, the Kamlet-Taft equation is not a linear free energy equation. The independent variables are calculated from solvatochromic measurements,<sup>39</sup> and are therefore spectroscopic energies and not free energies. Quite recently, Catalan and Reichardt<sup>40</sup> have applied an equation due to Catalan<sup>41</sup> to the solvolysis of tert-butyl chloride. The equation contains four independent variables, all of which are derived from solvatochromic measurements and hence, again, are related to spectroscopic energies. The equation is therefore not appropriate for the analysis of a dependent variable that is a free energy. We therefore concentrate only on the equations given by Gajewski and by Dvorko.

Gajewski applied his equation to Winstein–Fainberg Y-values for seven solvents and obtained eqn (12), Table 8. We recalculated his equation and obtained a slightly different

Table 4 Regression coefficients from the application of eqn (1) and (3) to the water–solvent partition coefficients of the *tert*-butyl chloride transition state, log *P*s(Tr), in aprotic solvents

Log Ps(Tr)	с	е	\$	а	b	ν	$j^+$	j <sup>-</sup>	Ν	SD	$R^2$	F	PRESS	$Q^2$	PSD	Eqn
Aprotic	4.008 $(1.920)$	—	1.621 (0.374)	0.404 (0.115)	2.182 (0.435)	0.402 (0.387)	0.0643 ( $0.0566$ )	0.0918 ( $0.0513$ )	20	0.494	0.882	16	14.204	0.472	1.045	(5)
Aprotic	4.191 (1.981)	_	1.732 (0.361)	0.423 (0.118)	2.175 (0.438)	0.302 (0.386)			20	0.515	0.852	22	11.924	0.557	0.892	(6)

 Table 5
 Regression coefficients from the application of eqn (1) and (3) to the water–solvent partition coefficients of the tert-butyl chloride transition state, log Ps(Tr), in protic solvents

Log Ps(Tr)	с	е	\$	а	b	ν	$j^{+}$	$j^-$	Ν	SD	$R^2$	F	PRESS	$Q^2$	PSD	Eqn
Protic	0.271 (0.169)	$1.161 \\ (1.051)$	2.703 (0.599)	-1.354 (0.531)	1.110 (0.461)	0.116 (0.523)	0.182 (0.212)	1.333 (0.303)	41	0.384	0.928	61	10.768	0.841	0.571	(7)
Protic	0.383 (0.198)	1.589 (0.817)	3.197 (0.478)	0.453 (0.432)	1.912 (0.393)	1.675 (0.423)			41	0.475	0.883	53	17.750	0.738	0.712	(8)

Table 6 Regression coefficients from the application of eqn (1) to water-solvent partition coefficients of the *tert*-butyl chloride transition state, log *Ps*(Tr), in aprotic and protic solvents

Log Ps(Tr)	С	е	S	a	b	ν	Ν	SD	$R^2$	F	PRESS	$Q^2$	PSD	Eqn
Aprotic Protic	2.513 (1.885) 0.372 (0.199)	$\begin{array}{c} 1.194 \ (0.741) \\ 1.344 \ (0.606) \end{array}$	2.338 (0.225) 3.295 (0.441)	$\begin{array}{c} 0.591 \ (0.127) \\ 0.655 \ (0.366) \end{array}$	2.472 (0.465) 2.178 (0.341)	1.037 (0.373) 1.961 (0.367)	28 44	0.673 0.477	0.940 0.901	69 69	19.684 17.134	0.882 0.803	0.945 0.671	(10) (11)

 Table 7
 Descriptors for the tert-butyl halide transition states

Species	Ε	S	Α	В	V
<i>t</i> -BuCl(Tr) protic solvents	0.20	2.27	0.66	1.03	0.8000
<i>t</i> -BuCl(Tr) aprotic solvents	0.20	2.63	0.45	1.75	0.8000
$Me_4N^+Cl^-$ ion pair	0.00	2.93	1.04	1.75	0.9913
$Me_4N^+$	-0.10	1.31	0.68	0.00	0.7635
Cl <sup>-</sup>	0.10	3.52	0.00	2.32	0.2278
Acetate <sup>-</sup>	0.42	2.19	0.00	2.93	0.4433
<i>t</i> -BuBr(Tr) Protic solvents	0.35	2.19	0.40	0.96	0.8500
<i>t</i> -BuBr(Tr) Aprotic solvents	0.35	3.06	0.40	1.49	0.8500
$Me_4N^+Br^-$ ion pair	0.07	2.11	0.89	2.18	1.0701
Br <sup>-</sup>	0.17	2.74	0.00	1.82	0.3066
<i>t</i> -BuI(Tr) protic solvents	0.65	2.47	0.35	0.85	0.9400
<i>t</i> -BuI(Tr) aprotic solvents	0.65	3.02	0.17	1.24	0.9400
$Me_4 N^+ I^-$ ion pair	0.28	2.51	0.75	1.48	1.1696
I	0.38	3.55	0.00	1.34	0.4081

equation, eqn (13), using a corrected  $(\varepsilon - 1)/(2\varepsilon + 1)$  value from Marcus, for HFIP, as also shown in Table 8.<sup>42</sup> In these equations,  $\varepsilon$  is the solvent dielectric constant, a' is a descriptor based on the partition of the potassium ion, b' is a descriptor

based on the partition of the chloride ion, and *CED* is the cohesive energy density.

Unfortunately, both eqn (12) and (13) are statistically invalid because they only have seven data points for four independent variables, as can be seen from the low value of  $Q^2$  and the large value of PSD in eqn (13). Therefore, no valid information can be drawn in these circumstances.

In an interesting application, Gajewski<sup>2</sup> obtained values for the transfer of the *tert*-butyl chloride transition state itself and regressed these against the independent variables in eqn (12) to obtain eqn (14) for 23 protic and aprotic solvents. Again, we used the same Y-values and independent variables as listed by Gajewski with the corrected  $\varepsilon$  value for HFIP and obtained eqn (15), as depicted in Table 9.

Results in Table 9, although statistically not very good, are in line with our own results presented in Table 6, with both solvent nucleophilicity (b') and solvent electrophilicity (a') stabilizing the transition state.

Koppel and Palm<sup>9</sup> applied their well-known equation to the solvolysis of *tert*-butyl chloride, with  $\log k/s^{-1}$  as the dependent variable, using 23 protic and aprotic solvents – Table 10 – where  $Y_e$  is the dielectric constant function used by Gajewski, *P* is the

Table 8 Regression coefficients from the application of Gajewski equation to seven solvents with uncorrected, eqn (12), and corrected, eqn (13),  $\varepsilon$  value for HFIP

Dependent variable	const	$\frac{(\varepsilon+1)}{(2\varepsilon+1)}$	<i>a</i> ′	b'	CED	Ν	SD	$R^2$	F	PRESS	$Q^2$	PSD	Eqn
2.303Y	-24.5	30.4	29.3	-34.1	17.4	7	0.844	0.973	_	_	_	_	(12)
2.303Y	-30.2	37.6	38.8	-24.8	15.5	7	0.694	0.982	83	61.98	0.615	5.56	(13)

Table 9 Regression coefficients from the application of Gajewski equation to 23 protic and aprotic solvents from ref. 2 with uncorrected, eqn (14), and corrected, eqn (15),  $\varepsilon$  value for HFIP

Dependent variable	const	$\frac{(\varepsilon+1)}{(2\varepsilon+1)}$	<i>a</i> ′	<i>b'</i>	CED	Ν	SD	$R^2$	F	PRESS	$Q^2$	PSD	Eqn
Log Tr(tranfer) Log Tr(transfer)	$-11.2 \\ -11.1$	11.9 11.7	43.2 44.0	10.6 10.5	1.1 0.83	23 23	$\begin{array}{c} 1.02\\ 1.55\end{array}$	0.925 0.926	 69	 88.49	 0.875	 2.217	(14) (15)

 Table 10
 Coefficients from the application of the Koppel-Palm equation to solvents in ref. 9 and 5

Ref.	$\log k$	const	Y <sub>e</sub>	Р	Ε	В	$\delta^2$	Ν	SD	$R^2$	Eqn
Koppel–Palm <sup>9</sup>	Protic + aprotic	-19.89	13.39	13.46	0.378	_	_	23	4.8%	0.964	(16)
Dvorko <i>et al.</i> <sup>5</sup>	Protic + aprotic	-19.9	17.9	5.53	0.083	_	_	42	0.670	0.943	(17)
Dvorko <i>et al.</i> <sup>5</sup>	Aprotic	-20.6	14.5	13.0	0.136		—	21	0.610	0.904	(18)
Dvorko <i>et al.</i> <sup>5</sup>	Protic	-13.6	16.6	_	0.037	-1.24	0.0014	20	0.630	0.929	(19)

refractive index function and *E* is the solvent electrophilicity. In eqn (16) the solvent nucleophilicity, *B*, was not significant, and so this equation suggests the absence of any nucleophilic solvent participation. Dvorko *et al.*<sup>5</sup> also applied the Koppel-Palm equation to the solvolysis of *tert*-butyl chloride in a larger number of aprotic and protic solvents and obtained a similar equation, except that the coefficient of the electrophilicity descriptor is very small (0.083) so that neither solvent electrophilicity nor solvent nucleophilicity have any real effect on the reaction rate. These results are also presented in Table 10 together with the treatment for aprotic and protic solvents taken separately ( $\delta^2$  stands for the cohesive energy density).

Based on these results, Dvorko *et al.*<sup>5</sup> concluded that in all solvents, the electrophilicity descriptor leads to an increase in the reaction rate, and that the nucleophilicity descriptor has no influence on reaction rate except in protic solvents where it actually leads to a small reduction in reaction rate.

Thus, of the linear free energy relationships applied to *tert*butyl chloride rate constants or to transfers of the *tert*-butyl chloride transition state, our equations and Gajewski's (recalculated) equation indicate that both protic and aprotic solvents stabilize the transition state and lead to an increase in rate, but the Koppel–Palm equation suggests that there is no nucleophilic involvement of the solvent. Since both the  $Me_4N^+$  ion and the  $Me_4N^+Cl^-$  ion pair are stabilized by nucleophilic solvents, as seen in Table 7, the results of the Koppel–Palm equation appear to be incompatible with these solvent effects. It is possible that the differences between the outcomes of the various equations are due to our equation and Gajewski's equation using properties of the transition state as the dependent variable, whereas in the Koppel–Palm equation, rate constants, as log *k*, are used. We can check this by regressions of log *k* – Table 11. It is clear that our above conclusions about nucleophilic participation are not due to the use of transition state quantities as the dependent variable instead of log *k*. Eqn (20)–(22) show that solvent nucleophilic participation increases the rate, and eqns (10), (11) and (15) show that nucleophilic solvents stabilize the transition state. Our descriptors for the transition state itself show that the transition state exhibits considerable hydrogen bond acidity (electrophilicity) and considerable hydrogen bond basicity (nucleophilicity) in line with known properties of species such as  $Me_4N^+$ ,  $Cl^-$  and the  $Me_4N^+Cl^-$  ion pair.

#### 3.2 tert-Butyl bromide

We follow the same procedure as for *tert*-butyl chloride. Rate constants, as  $\log k$ , that we used<sup>6,8,11,33,37</sup> and those from this work are in Table 2. We calculated the transition state partition coefficients through eqn (4). For the partition of the *tert*-butyl bromide transition state we obtain eqn (23) and (24) in Table 12, using aprotic and protic solvents, separately. In eqn (23) the point for dioxane was left out and in eqn (24) that for acetic acid was left out. Eqn (23) is only just statistically viable, with 19 data points for five independent variables, but suggests that there is stabilization of the transition state by electrophilic and nucleophilic aprotic solvents. Eqn (24), however, is statistically very good. We can thus conclude that hydrogen bond acids (electrophilic solvents) stabilize the transition state, and that hydrogen bond bases (nucleophilic solvents) greatly stabilize the transition state.

We can obtain descriptors for the *tert*-butyl bromide transition state by using our simultaneous equation method, as before. We took E = 0.35 and V = 0.850, by comparison to values for *tert*butyl bromide and for the other species in Table 7 and obtained

Table 11	1 Regressions of log k (tert-butyl chloride) using coefficients from Table 1													
Log k	С	е	S	а	b	ν	Ν	SD	$R^2$	F	PRESS	$Q^2$	PSD	Eqn
All solvents Aprotic	s = -0.511 (0.278) 2.162 (1.415)	1.653 (0.529) 1.407 (0.615)	1.792 (0.202) 2.351 (0.193)	1.081 (0.081) 0.560 (0.141)	2.850 (0.204) 2.855 (0.328)	1.202 (0.227) 0.555 (0.314)	74 29	0.787 0.579	0.956 0.961	298 113	49.56 13.495	0.949 0.931	0.854 0.766	(20) (21)
Protic	-1.061(0.204)	1.026(0.590)	2.765(0.428)	1.341(0.327)	2.152(0.350)	1.023(0.374)	45	0.490	0.958	179	15.144	0.932	0.623	(22)

Table 12 Regression coefficients from the application of eqn (1) to water-solvent partition coefficients of the *tert*-butyl bromide transition state, log *Ps*(Tr), in aprotic and protic solvents

Log Ps(Tr)	С	е	S	a	b	ν	Ν	SD	$R^2$	F	PRESS	$Q^2$	PSD	Eqn
Aprotic	3.583 (2.085)	0.489 (0.747)	2.510 (0.390)	0.498 (0.116)	2.242 (0.314)	0.869 (0.357)	19	0.469	0.961	95	8.039	0.890	0.786	(23)
Protic	0.199 (0.120)	0.703 (0.377)	2.600 (0.284)	0.648 (0.253)	1.718 (0.218)	1.578 (0.233)	41	0.287	0.935	101	5.910	0.867	0.410	(24)

Table 13 Regression coefficients from the application of eqn (1) to water-solvent partition coefficients of the *tert*-butyl iodide transition state, log *Ps*(Tr), in aprotic and protic solvents

Log Ps(Tr)	С	е	S	a	b	ν	Ν	SD	$R^2$	F	PRESS	$Q^2$	PSD	Eqn
Aprotic	3.468 (2.011)	1.247 (0.667)	$\begin{array}{c} 2.414 \; (0.354) \\ 3.154 \; (0.324) \end{array}$	0.315 (0.095)	2.043 (0.376)	1.012 (0.334)	23	0.488	0.940	53	7.321	0.872	0.654	(25)
Protic	0.070 (0.099)	1.835 (0.441)		0.099 (0.277)	1.972 (0.338)	2.071 (0.375)	39	0.237	0.906	74	3.812	0.832	0.340	(26)

a set of 17 simultaneous equations for aprotic solvents. These were solved by trial-and-error to give the transition state descriptors in Table 7 with an SD of only 0.285 log units. We left out dioxane solvent which was a considerable outlier. For protic solvents we had 39 simultaneous equations (leaving out *tert*-butanol and acetic acid) which we solved with SD = 0.350 log units. The descriptors are in Table 7. In general, the transition state properties are in accord with the partition coefficient equations. The transition state is highly dipolar, is a very strong hydrogen bond base and a moderately strong hydrogen bond acid. It will therefore be stabilized by electrophilic and nucleophilic solvents.

#### 3.3 tert-Butyl iodide

We could access a reasonable number of rate constants for *tert*butyl iodide,<sup>6,11,32–34</sup> and from this work, as set out in Table 2. Equations for  $\log PsTr(Aprotic)$  and  $\log PsTr(Protic)$  are given as eqn (25) and (26) in Table 13.

We were also able to use our simultaneous equation method to obtain descriptors for the *tert*-butyl iodide transition state. By comparison to the various species in Table 7, we took E = 0.65and V = 0.9400. Then for protic solvents we had a set of 36 equations (leaving out the equations for solvents *tert*-butyl alcohol and 2-methoxyethanol) which we solved to yield the descriptors in Table 7, with SD = 0.230 log units. For aprotic solvents we had 21 solvents that we solved with SD = 0.378 log units; the descriptors are also in Table 7. The transition state is thus stabilized by electrophilic solvents, although not to the same extent as are the *tert*-butyl chloride and *tert*-butyl bromide transition states. The transition state *A*-values are quite small (0.17, 0.35) which indicates that the transition state is weakly stabilized by solvents that are hydrogen bond bases (nucleophiles).

### 4 Conclusions

The descriptors for the three transition states are quite in line with descriptors for various other species given in Table 7. The three transition states are all moderately strong hydrogen bond acids, but not quite as strong as the corresponding ion pairs  $Me_4N^+X^-$ . Thus, the transition states are stabilized by nucleophilic solvents, just as are the ion pairs, with the stabilization

decreasing along the series Cl > Br > I. Since the ground states are unaffected by solvent nucleophilicity, Table 3, it follows that the reaction rates will be increased by nucleophilic solvents. If solvent nucleophilicity is unimportant,<sup>4-9</sup> then it follows that the transition states, with a substantial charge separation, must be unaffected by solvent nucleophilicity,<sup>4-9</sup> whereas the ion pairs are greatly stabilized by nucleophilic solvents – a conclusion that makes little sense. Our own conclusion is unambiguous. The three transition states are stabilized by nucleophilic solvents that consequently increase the rates of reaction.

The effect of electrophilic solvents is not in contention. They will greatly increase the rate of reaction through considerable stabilization of the transition states. The *B*-values of the transition states are all very large, just as are the *B*-values of the ion pairs. All these species are stabilized through interaction of the electrophilic solvents with the leaving halide in the transition states and the formed halide ion in the ion pairs.

## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

## Acknowledgements

F. Martins, R. Elvas-Leitão and L. Moreira acknowledge support from Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, Portugal (UIDB/ 00100/2020).

## References

- 1 E. D. Hughes, Mechanism of substitution at a saturated carbon atom. Part V. Hydrolysis of *tert*-butyl chloride, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 1935, 255–257.
- 2 J. J. Gajewski, Is the *tert*-butyl chloride solvolysis the most misunderstood reaction in organic chemistry? Evidence against nucleophilic solvent participation in the *tert*-butyl chloride transition state and for increased hydrogen bond donation to the 1-adamantyl chloride solvolysis transition state, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2001, **123**, 10877–10883.

- 3 J. J. Gajewski, A semi-theoretical multiparameter approach to correlate solvent effects on reactions and equilibria, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1992, **57**, 5500–5506.
- 4 G. F. Dvorko, V. V. Zaliznyi and N. E. Ponomarev, Kinetics and mechanism of monomolecular heterolysis of commercial organohalogen compounds, XXIX. Solvent effects on the activation parameters of heterolysis of *tert*-butyl chloride, *Russ. J. Gen. Chem.*, 2002, 72, 1414–1438.
- 5 G. V. Dvorko, V. V. Zaliznyi and N. E. Ponomarev, Kinetics and mechanism of monomolecular heterolysis of commercial organohalogen compounds. XXXI. Correlation analysis of solvation effects in heterolysis of *tert*-butyl chloride, *Russ. J. Gen. Chem.*, 2002, **72**, 1549–1555.
- 6 G. V. Dvorko, E. A. Ponomareva, N. E. Ponomarev, V. V. Zaliznyi and L. V. Koshchii, Nature of solvation effects and mechanism of heterolysis of *tert*-alkyl halides, *Russ. J. Gen. Chem.*, 2007, 77, 1535–1558.
- 7 G. V. Dvorko and E. A. Ponomareva, Effect of nucleophilic solvent on the kinetic parameters of the reactions of unimolecular heterolysis. Mechanism of the covalent bond heterolysis, *Russ. J. Gen. Chem.*, 2010, **80**, 1615–1625.
- 8 N. E. Ponomarev, V. V. Zaliznyi and G. F. Dvorko, Kinetics and mechanism of monomolecular heterolysis of commercial organohalogen compounds, XXXVIII. Correlation analysis of solvent effects on the activation parameters of heterolysis of *t*-BuBr and *t*-BuI., *Russ. J. Gen. Chem.*, 2004, **74**, 1368–1375.
- 9 I. A. Koppel and V. A. Palm, The influence of solvent on organic reactivity, in *Advances in Linear Free Energy Relationships*, ed. N. B. Chapman and J. Shorter, Plenum Press, 1972.
- 10 I. M. Serebryakov, On the "Negative effect of nucleophilic solvation" in homomolecular heterolysis., *Russ. J. Gen. Chem.*, 2013, 83, 32–37.
- 11 M. H. Abraham, R. W. Taft and M. J. Kamlet, Linear solvation energy relationships. 15. Heterolytic decomposition of the *tert*-butyl halides, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1981, 46, 3053–3056.
- 12 M. H. Abraham, R. M. Doherty, M. J. Kamlet, J. M. Harris and R. W. Taft, Linear solvation energy relationships. Part 37. An analysis of contributions of dipolarity-polarizability, nucleophilic assistance, electrophilic assistance, and cavity terms to solvent effects on *t*-butyl halide solvolysis rates, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans.* 2, 1987, 913–920.
- 13 M. H. Abraham, R. M. Doherty, M. J. Kamlet, J. M. Harris and R. W. Taft, Linear solvation energy relationships. Part 38. An analysis of the use of solvent parameters in the correlation of rate constants with special reference to the solvolysis of *t*-butyl chloride, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans 2*, 1987, 1097–1101.
- 14 D. Farcasiu, J. Jahme and C. Ruchardt, Relative reactivity of bridgehead adamantly and homoadamantyl substrates from solvolyses with heptafluorobutyrate as a highly reactive carboxylate leaving group. Absence of SN2 character of solvolysis of *tert*-butyl derivatives, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1985, 107, 5717–5722.

- 15 A. J. Parker, U. Mayer, R. Schmid and V. Gutmann, Correlation of solvent effects on rates of solvolysis and  $S_N2$  reactions, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1978, 43, 1843–1854.
- 16 T. W. Bentley and G. E. Carter, The  $S_N 2-S_N 1$  spectrum. 4. The  $S_N 2$  intermediate mechanism for solvolysis of *tert*-butyl chloride: a revised Y scale of solvent ionizing power based on solvolysis of 1-adamantyl chloride, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1982, **104**, 5741–5747.
- 17 C. G. Swain, M. S. Swain, A. L. Powell and S. Alunni, Solvent effect on chemical reactivity. Evaluation of anion and cation solvation components, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1983, **105**, 502–513.
- 18 K. Takeuchi, M. Takasuka, E. Shiba, T. Kinoshita, T. Okazaki, J.-L. M. Abboud, R. Notario and O. Castano, Experimental and theoretical evaluation of energetics for nucleophilic solvent participation in the solvolysis of tertiary alkyl chlorides on the basis of gas phase bridgehead carbocation stabilities, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2000, **122**, 7351–7357.
- 19 M. H. Abraham, Scales of hydrogen bonding: their construction and application to physicochemical and biochemical processes, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 1993, **22**, 73–83.
- 20 M. H. Abraham, A. Ibrahim and A. M. Zissimos, The determination of sets of solute descriptors from chromatographic measurements, *J. Chromatogr. A*, 2004, **1037**, 29–47.
- 21 M. H. Abraham, R. E. Smith, R. Luchtefeld, A. J. Boorem, R. Luo and W. E. Acree Jr., Prediction of solubility of drugs and other compounds in organic solvents, *J. Pharm. Sci.*, 2010, **99**, 1500–1515.
- 22 M. H. Abraham, W. E. Acree Jr., D. Hoekman, A. J. Leo and M. L. A. Medlin, New method for the determination of Henry's Law constants air-water-partition coefficients, *Fluid Phase Equilib.*, 2019, **502**, 112300.
- 23 M. H. Abraham and W. E. Acree Jr., Equations for the transfer of neutral molecules and ionic species from water to organic phases, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2010, **75**, 1006–1015.
- 24 M. H. Abraham and W. E. Acree Jr., Descriptors for ions and ion-pairs for use in linear free energy relationships, *J. Chromatogr. A*, 2016, 1430, 2–14.
- 25 M. H. Abraham and W. E. Acree Jr., Analysis of the solubility of betaine; calculation of descriptors and physicochemical properties, *Fluid Phase Equilib.*, 2015, **387**, 1–4.
- 26 M. H. Abraham and W. E. Acree Jr., Solvation descriptors for zwitterionic  $\alpha$ -aminoacids, estimation of their water–solvent partition coefficients, solubilities and hydrogen-bond acidity and hydrogen-bond basicity, *ACS Omega*, 2019, 4, 2883–2892.
- 27 L. Moreira, F. Martins and R. E. Leitão, A step by step buildup of an excel spreadsheet: estimation of rate constants through Solver, determination of associated errors and choice of curve's extent, *J. Chem. Educ.*, 2006, **83**, 1879–1883.
- 28 L. Moreira, M. Reis, R. Elvas-Leitao, M. H. Abraham and F. Martins, Quantifying solvent effects through QSPR: a new look over different model equations, *J. Mol. Liq.*, 2019, 291, 111244.
- 29 M. H. Abraham, Substitution at saturated carbon. Part XIV. Solvent effects on the free energies of ions, ion-pairs,

non-electrolytes and transition states in some  $S_N$  and  $S_E$  reactions., *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans.* 2, 1972, 1343–1357.

- 30 M. H. Abraham, P. L. Grellier, A. Nasahzadeh and R. A. C. Walker, Substitution at saturated carbon. Part 26. A complete analysis of solvent effects on initial states and transition states for the solvolysis of the *t*-butyl halides in terms of G, H, and S using the unified method, *J. Chem. Soc.*, *Perkin Trans.* 2, 1988, 1717–1724.
- 31 R. M. C. Gonçalves, A. M. N. Simões, L. M. P. C. Albuquerque and E. A. Macedo, Study of initial- and transition-state solvation in the solvolysis of *tert*-butyl halides in alcohols from infinite dilution activity coefficients, *J. Phys. Org. Chem.*, 1993, 6, 133–138.
- 32 R. M. C. Gonçalves, A. M. N. Simões and L. M. P. C. Albuquerque, Quantitative formulation of reactivity in terms of solvent and substrate properties. Solvolysis of *tert*-butyl halides in hydroxylic solvents, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 2*, 1991, 825–828.
- 33 E. A. Moelwyn-Hughes, The kinetics of the solvolysis of *t*-butyl chloride, bromide and iodide in methanol-water solutions, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 1962, 4301–4307.
- 34 L. M. P. C. Albuquerque, M. L. C. Moita and R. M. C. Gonçalves, Kinetics and mechanism of solvolysis of 3-chloro-3-ethylpentane in alcohols as solvents. Application of multiparameter equations and factor analysis to the solvolytic reactions of *tert*-alkyl halides, *J. Phys. Org. Chem.*, 2001, 14, 139–145.

- 35 A. H. Fainberg and S. Winstein, Correlation of solvolysis rates. III. *t*-Butyl chloride in a wide range of solvent mixtures, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1956, **78**, 2770–2777.
- 36 M. H. Abraham and R. J. Abraham, Application of reaction field theory to the calculation of solvent effects on the *t*-butyl chloride solvolysis and the  $Me_4N^+$  Cl<sup>-</sup> ion pair, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 2*, 1974, 47–52.
- 37 E. Grunwald and S. Winstein, The correlation of solvolysis rates, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1948, **70**, 846–854.
- 38 E. D. Clarke and L. Mallon, The Determination of Abraham descriptors and their Application to Crop Protection Research", in *Modern Methods in Crop Protection Research*, ed. P. Jeschke, W. Krämer, U. Schirmer and M. Witschel, Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH & Co., 2012.
- 39 R. W. Taft, J.-L. M. Abboud, M. J. Kamlet and M. H. Abraham, Linear solvation energy relations, *J. Solu. Chem.*, 1985, 14, 153–186.
- 40 J. Catalan and C. Reichardt, Comments on "Quantifying solvent effects through QSPR: a new look over different model equations", *J. Mol. Liq.*, 2020, **298**, 111922.
- 41 J. Catalan, Towards a generalized treatment of the solvent effect based on four empirical scales: dipolarity SdP, a new scale, polarizability SP, acidity SA and basicity SB of the medium, *J. Phys. Chem. B*, 2009, **113**, 5951–5960.
- 42 Y. Marcus, *The Properties of Solvents*, John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, 1998.