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DENSITY AND SOLVATION EFFECTS OF IMIDAZOLIUM BASED IONIC LIQUIDS IN PROPYLENE CARBONATE

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The results of densimetry investigation of the solutions of 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (BMIMBF₄), hexafluorophosphate (BMIMPF₆) and bromide (BMIMBr) in propylene carbonate (PC) at 298.15, 318.15, 338.15 and 358.15 K are presented and discussed in terms of apparent partial molar volumes and solvation contribution. Density measurements were carried out using the vibrational tube densitometer Mettler Toledo DM 50 with accuracy \pm 3·10⁻⁵ g/cm³. The limiting partial molar volumes of investigated ionic liquids in PC were obtained from density experi-

The limiting partial molar volumes of investigated ionic liquids in PC were obtained from density experiment using Masson equation and divided into ionic contributions. Limiting partial molar volumes of BMIMBF4, BMIMPF6 and BMIMBr in PC slightly increase with the increase of temperature. The limiting partial molar volumes of BMIM $^{+}$ cation obtained from three ionic liquids with different anions was found to have the same value, 115 cm 3 /mol at 298.15 K.

The intrinsic volume of $BMIM^{+}$ cation estimated from quantum chemical calculations at the M062X/6-311++G(d,p) theory level exceeds one obtained from density experiment indicating that solvation of cation has a negative contribution to the volume of ion in propylene carbonate.

In order to investigate the microscopic structure of the BMIM⁺ solvation shell in PC, molecular dynamics simulation of the infinitely dilute solution was carried out in the *NVT* ensemble at 298.15 K. The results of the simulation reveal that 5-6 PC molecules forming the first solvation shell penetrate into the inner space of the cation, which agrees with the results of a density experiment treatment. From the analysis of the cation-solvent site-site radial distribution functions and the running coordination numbers it was established that the most probable coordination center of PC molecule is carbonyl oxygen.

Keywords: densimetry, density, apparent partial molar volume, solvation, 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium, tetrafluoroborate, hexafluorophosphate, bromide, propylene carbonate, molecular dynamics simulation.

Introduction

The room temperature ionic liquids (RTILs) due to their ionic structure and liquid state at room temperature have a plenty of specific features such as negligible vapor pressure, non-flammability, broad range of liquid state, high thermal stability, high solvating capacity and wide electrochemical window [1]. As a result, RTILs have a variety of different application areas [2] such as bio-catalysis and organic reactions [3], lubricants [4], separation and extraction [5], energy storage and chemical power sources [6]. Mixtures of RTILs (especially imidazolium based RTILs) with aprotic solvents like propylene carbonate are widely used in lithium-ion batteries [7], super capacitors [8] and solar cells [9] due to lower viscosity and higher ion mobility.

Taking into account growing interest for electrochemical application deeper understanding of physicochemical properties of the RTILs mixture with molecular solvents is needed since this information is vital for optimization and development of new electrochemical devices. The most important properties for electrochemical application of RTILs mixtures are mainly defined by microscopic structure and ion–ion and ion–solvent interactions. To date, there have been made several attempts to study such interactions using theoretical and experimental approaches, including scanning electron microscopy (SEM) [10], quantum chemical calculation [11], thermodynamic and transport properties [12-15], NMR spectroscopy [16], IR spectroscopy, Raman spectroscopy [17-18]. But the role of cation solvation by solvent molecules is still remains unclear. It seems appropriate to use a combination of experimental and computing methods for examination of solvation structure in such complicated systems like mixtures of RTILs with aprotic solvents.

Densimetry is one of the simplest, fast and informative experimental methods which can give the information about solvation effects by means of apparent partial molar volumes of electrolytes and ions. In spite of the fact that literature data on density of some RTILs in PC [19-22] is available, information about the apparent partial molar volumes of RTILs in such systems is scarce.

Based on this, in current work density of binary mixtures of three RTILs 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (BMIMBF₄), hexafluorophosphate (BMIMPF₆) and bromide (BMIMBr) with propylene carbonate (PC) was measured with high accuracy in the temperature range 298.15-358.15 K. The apparent partial molar volumes (V_{ϕ}) of the mixtures were calculated and fitted by the Masson equation [23] to discuss the concentration dependence of V_{ϕ} and to find limiting

partial molar volumes \overline{V}_2^0 in order to evaluate the solvation effects. Additionally, the microscopic structure of the first solvation shell of 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium in propylene carbonate at infinite dilution was studied by means of molecular dynamics simulation.

Experimental section

<u>Materials</u>. Ionic liquids 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate and bromide were purchased from Merck and 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium hexafluorophosphate was purchased from Solvionic (mass fraction purity 99.0 - 99.5%). RTILs were preliminary dried under reduced pressure in ultrasonic bath at 50 - 60 °C for 4-5 hours. 1-Butyl-3-methylimidazolium bromide was dried under reduced pressure in water bath at 85 °C for 4-5 hours using rotary evaporator and then recrystallized using liquid nitrogen. Propylene carbonate (Merck 99%) was distilled under reduced pressure and stored over 4 Å molecular sieves, and redistilled under reduced pressure prior to use. The water content in propylene carbonate was less than 80 ppm as was controlled by Karl Fischer titration.

<u>Measurements</u>. A set of 10 solutions for each RTIL+PC systems in the range of concentrations from $5 \cdot 10^{-3}$ to $1 \cdot 10^{-1}$ mol/dm³ were used for the density measurements. Solutions were prepared from concentrated one gravimetrically by dilution taking into account the correction on Archimedean force. All the solutions were handled in a dried glovebox over P_2O_5 and tested for a water content that was about 100 ppm for each solution.

Density measurements were carried out using the vibrational tube densitometer Mettler Toledo DM 50 at 298.15, 318.15, 338.15 and 358.15 K with accuracy 0.02 K (Peltier temperature control) and viscosity correction. Each value of solution density is an average from at list five measurements with repeatability $\pm 2 \cdot 10^{-5}$ while the instrument accuracy is reported to be $\pm 3 \cdot 10^{-5}$ g/cm³. The calibration of densitometer was made using ultra-pure water and air at atmospheric pressure and 293.15 K.

Results and discussion

Density and partial molar volumes

The experimental density data for studied systems are presented in Table 1. Literature data on the density of propylene carbonate at 298.15 K is in the range of 1.1890 – 1.2001 g/cm³ [24-35].

The apparent partial molar volumes (V_{ϕ}) of RTILs in PC were calculated from experimental densities of solvent (d_0) and solutions (d), respectively:

$$V_{\phi} = \left(1 - \frac{d}{d_0}\right) \frac{1000}{c} + \frac{M_2}{d_0},\tag{1}$$

where M_2 is a molar mass of RTIL.

Obtained data (Fig. 1) were fitted by Masson equation (eq. 2) where apparent partial molar volume of electrolyte has a linear dependence versus square root from molar concentration [23].

$$V_{\phi} = \overline{V}_{2}^{0} + S_{V} \cdot c^{1/2} \tag{2}$$

The values of limiting partial molar volumes \overline{V}_2^0 were obtained by extrapolation of the concentration dependence to the infinite dilution. As can be observed from Fig. 2 limiting partial molar volumes of studied RTILs in PC slightly increase with the increase of temperature.

Table 1. Density change of BMIMBF₄, BMIMPF₆, BMIMBr solutions in PC compared to the pure solvent (Δd , g/cm³) as a function of molar concentrations (c, mol/dm³) at studied temperatures

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0.03510						
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0.07520						
0.07960						
0.11560						

In order to estimate the ionic contribution into limiting partial molar volumes we used schemes (3-5) and available literature data for anions and lithium salts [36] in PC at 298.15 K. $Br^{-} \xrightarrow{\text{LiBr}} Li^{+} \xrightarrow{\text{LiBF}_{4}} BF_{4}^{-} \xrightarrow{\text{BMIMBF}_{4}} BMIM^{+}$ $Br^{-} \xrightarrow{\text{LiBr}} Li^{+} \xrightarrow{\text{LiPF}_{6}} PF_{6}^{-} \xrightarrow{\text{BMIMPF}_{6}} BMIM^{+}$

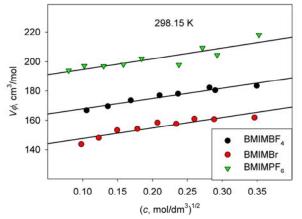
$$Br^{-} \xrightarrow{\text{LiBr}} Li^{+} \xrightarrow{\text{LiBr}_{4}} BF_{4}^{-} \xrightarrow{\text{BMIMBr}_{4}} BMIM^{+}$$
(3)

$$Br^{-} \xrightarrow{LiBr} Li^{+} \xrightarrow{LiPF_{6}} PF_{6}^{-} \xrightarrow{BMIMPF_{6}} BMIM^{+}$$
(4)

$$Br^{-} \xrightarrow{BMIMBr} BMIM^{+}$$
 (5)

The values of BMIM⁺ cation limiting partial molar volume \overline{V}_i^0 and initial literature data are listed in Table 2.

The results listed in Table 2 demonstrate that the values of BMIM⁺ cation limiting partial molar volume obtained from three RTILs with different anions are close to each other that confirms reliability of our experimental data and the used dividing schemes.



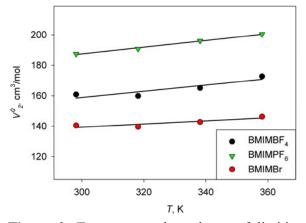


Figure 1. Concentration dependence of apparent partial molar volume of RTILs in PC at 298.15 K. The same tendency is observed at other temperatures.

Figure 2. Temperature dependence of limiting partial molar volumes of RTILs in PC.

Table 2. Limiting partial molar volumes of electrolytes and ions at 298.15 K. The corresponding values for anions are taken form ref. [36].

\overline{V}_2^0 , cm ³ /mol	\overline{V}_{-}^{0} , cm ³ /mol [36]	\overline{V}^0_+ , cm ³ /mol
BMIMBF ₄	BF ₄	$BMIM^{+}$
161	47	114
$BMIMPF_6$	PF_6^-	$BMIM^{+}$
188	73	115
BMIMBr	Br^-	$BMIM^{+}$
141	26	115

For more detailed interpretation of obtained data it was assumed that limiting partial molar volume of ion can be represented by the sum of intrinsic ionic volume \overline{V}_{intr}^0 and the additional value $\Delta \overline{V}_i^0$ that describes the solvation effects in the nearest space around the ion:

$$\overline{V_i}^0 = \overline{V_{intr}}^0 + \Delta \overline{V_i}^0 \tag{6}$$

To estimate the intrinsic molar volume of BMIM⁺ cation first quantum chemical calculation at the M062X/6-311++G(d, p) theory level was carried out in order to optimize its geometry in vacuum using Gaussian 09 [37] program package. Then the cation volume that defined as one inside a contour of 0.001 electron/Bohr³ density was estimated by averaging ten corresponding values. The ion radius was calculated from an assumption of ion sphericity and was found to be 0.364 nm. Finally the average intrinsic molar volume of BMIM⁺ \bar{V}_{intr}^0 was estimated as 122 cm³/mol. Comparison of the intrinsic (122 cm³/mol) and experimental limiting partial molar volumes (115 cm³/mol) allows one to make a conclusion about the "negative" contribution of solvation ($\Delta \bar{V}_i^0 = -7 \text{ cm}^3/\text{mol}$) to the value of \bar{V}_+^0 for BMIM⁺ in PC implying penetration of inner space of cation by solvent molecules.

Molecular dynamics simulation

In order to investigate the microstructure of the BMIM+ (Fig. 3) solvation shell in PC, a molecular dynamics (MD) simulation of the system of an infinitely dilute solution was carried out.

The MD simulation was performed by using MDNAES simulation package [38]. The interparticle interactions were represented by a sum of Coulomb and Lennard-Jones (LJ) (12, 6) potentials.

$$U(\mathbf{r}) = 4\varepsilon \left[\left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^{12} - \left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^{6} \right]$$
 (7)

The cross-terms of LJ (12, 6) were cal<u>culated</u> via Lorenz-Berthelot combining rules:

$$\varepsilon_{ii} = \sqrt{\varepsilon_{ii}\varepsilon_{ii}}, \quad \sigma_{ii} = (\sigma_{ii} + \sigma_{ii})/2$$
 (8,9)

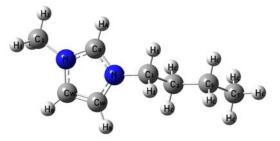
 $\varepsilon_{ij} = \sqrt{\varepsilon_{ii}\varepsilon_{jj}} \ , \qquad \sigma_{ij} = \left(\sigma_{ii} + \sigma_{jj}\right)/2$ Electrostatic interactions were treated by using the reaction field method:

$$U_{ij}^{RF} = \frac{z_i z_j e^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \left(\frac{1}{r_{ij}} - b_0 \frac{r_{ij}}{2R_{cut}^3} + \frac{1}{R_{cut}} \left(\frac{b_0}{2} - 1 \right) \right), \quad b_0 = \frac{2(\varepsilon_{RF} - 1)}{2\varepsilon_{RF} + 1}, \quad (10, 11)$$

where R_{cut} and ε_{RF} are cut off radius and dielectric constant above the R_{cut} radius, respectively. The technique of the shifted force was applied to LJ (12, 6) interactions.

A simulation of a system that consists of 215 PC molecules and 1 BMIM⁺ in cubic cell with periodic boundary conditions in all directions was treated in the NVT ensemble at 298.15 K by using the Berendsen thermostat. The time step was set equal to 0.5 fs. The investigated system was undergone the equilibration for 500 ps followed by calculation of the structural parameters for another 500 ps. The dielectric constant and density of system were set 64.92 kg/m³ [39] and 1198.0 kg/m³ [40] respectively (equal to the parameters of the pure solvent).

In the current work for propylene carbonate the parameters of the force field model were taken from [41]. The PC model had seven centers with united atoms: CH, CH2 and CH3, which were replaced by single interaction centers (Fig. 4).



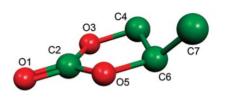


Figure 3. Structure of 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium cation Figure 4. Structure of united atom with atom designation used in the MD simulation.

model of the PC molecule.

Table 4. The partial charges on the BMIM⁺ atoms (q, |e|) according to the Mondal and Balasubramanian model [42] (original) and used in the present work

Site	Original	Present work
N	0.140	0.184
C_R	-0.010	-0.013
C_{W}	-0.110	-0.144
H_A	0.180	0.236
H_{B}	0.170	0.223
C_1	-0.250	-0.328
H_1	0.120	0.1574
C_2	-0.076	-0.076
$H_{\rm C}$	0.098	0.098
C_{S}	-0.196	-0.196
C_{T}	-0.294	-0.294
Total cation charge	+0.79	+1.0

Non-rigid and all-atom BMIM⁺ force field of Mondal and Balasubramanian [42] with the modification of partial charges proposed recently [43] was used for the present MD simulation. Particularly, the partial charges on the BMIM⁺ atoms were modified to restore the total charge of cation equal +1 in the infinitely dilute solution as compare with one equal to +0.79 in the original model of Mondal and Balasubramanian (Table 4).

The microscopic structure of the BMIM⁺ cation solvation shell in PC was analyzed in terms of the radial distribution function (RDF) and the running coordination numbers (RCN). From the analysis of cation-solvent site-site RDFs and RCNs one can conclude that the most probable coordination center of PC molecule is carbonyl oxygen. It interacts mostly with atoms of imidazole ring of the BMIM⁺ cation.

As can be seen from the Fig. 5 carbonyl oxygen atom of PC (O1) are mostly coordinated by the H_A atom bearing the highest positive charge within imidazole ring of the BMIM⁺ cation (Table 4). O1 are less coordinated by the H_B atoms and even less by carbon atoms of imidazole ring C_R and C_W .

Based on interatomic RDF the limits of the first solvation shell were evaluated. This gave the opportunity for estimation of RCN (Fig. 6). The first maxima on the RDF corresponds to the most probable distances between two neighboring atoms ($r_{max,l}$) and the first minima corresponds to the first solvation shell radii ($r_{min,l}$) (Table 5). Coordination numbers (Table 5) were obtained from RCN function by using first solvation shell radii acquired from RDF for the same interatomic interactions. Inspection of Table 5 show that about 3 PC molecules are placed around the H_A and C_R atoms, about 2 are placed around the H_B and C_W atoms of imidazole ring. In total O1– H_A and O1– H_B interatomic interactions show that there are 5 or 6 molecules of PC in the first solvation shell of BMIM⁺ cation. Based on these data one of the possible instantaneous configurations of the first solvation shell presented in Fig. 7.

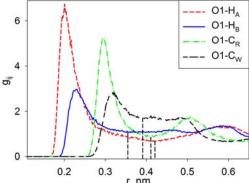


Figure 5. RDF of interatomic interactions between carbonyl oxygen atom of PC and atoms of imidazole ring of BMIM⁺ cation.

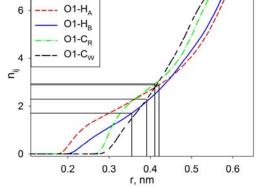


Figure 6. RCN for interatomic interactions between carbonyl oxygen atom of PC and atoms of imidazole ring of BMIM⁺ cation.

Table 5. The structural parameters of cation-solvent site-site interactions within the first solvation shell of BMIM⁺ in PC

Pair of atoms	$r_{max,l}$, nm	$r_{min,I}$, nm	Coordination number
O-H _A	0.201	0.420	2.84
$O-C_R$	0.295	0.410	2.92
$O-H_B$	0.229	0.355	1.70
$O-C_W$	0.319	0.390	2.25

It should be noted that the most probable distance of the carbonyl oxygen atom to the center of the imidazole ring was 0.329 nm that is less than intrinsic radius of the BMIM⁺ cation (0.364 nm) obtained from quantum-chemical calculations. This fact indicates the penetration of PC into the internal space of the cation. Such organization of solvation shell leads to the negative contribution into the

solvated volume which is in accordance with the mentioned above results of the densimetry experiment.

Conclusions

Density of BMIMBF₄, BMIMPF₆, BMIMBr in PC was investigated with high accuracy at 298.15, 318.15, 338.15 and 358.15 K. From the obtained experimental data using Masson equation the limiting partial molar volumes of RTILs in PC were obtained and divided into ionic contributions. The limiting partial molar volumes of BMIM⁺ cation obtained from three RTILs with different anions was found to have the same values 115 cm³/mol.

A quantum-chemical calculation (QQC) was carried out in order to optimize the geometry and obtain the intrinsic radius of the BMIM⁺ cation. The radius obtained from QQC was 0.364 nm and the intrinsic volume of cation was 122 cm³/mol. Comparison of the cation volume from density experiment and QQC indicates that solvation of cation has a negative contribution to the volume of ion in PC.

The microstructure of the first solvation shell of BMIM⁺ cation in PC was investigated by molecular dynamics simulation of infinitely diluted solution of 1 BMIM⁺ in 215 PC in the *NVT* ensemble at 298.15 K. It was shown that the most probable coordination center of PC molecule with respect to the BMIM⁺ cation is carbonyl oxygen. It interacts mostly with hydrogen atoms of imidazole ring of the BMIM⁺ cation. This results in formation of the first solvation shell consisting in 5-6 PC molecules which tend to penetrate the inner space of the cation.

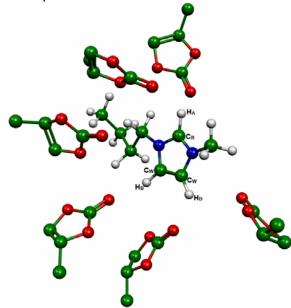


Figure 7. Instantaneous configuration of the first solvation shell of BMIM⁺ cation in PC.

Acknowledgements

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А.В. Рябчунова*, В.М. Карабцова*, О.Н. Калугин*. Плотность и сольватационные эффекты ионных жидкостей на основе имидазолия в пропиленкарбонате.

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Представлены результаты денсиметрического исследования растворов тетрафторобората (BMIMBF₄), гексафторофосфата (BMIMPF₆) и бромида (BMIMBr) 1-бутил-3-метилимидазолия в пропиленкарбонате (PC) при 298.15, 318.15, 338.15 и 358.15 К. Полученные данные рассмотрены с точки зрения кажущихся парциальных мольных объемов и вклада сольватации. Измерения плотности выполнены с использованием денсиметра Mettler Toledo DM 50 с точностью \pm 3·10⁻⁵ г/см³.

Предельные парциальные мольные объемы исследованных ионных жидкостей в пропиленкарбонате были получены из экспериментальных данных по плотности с использованием уравнение Мэссона и разделены на ионные вклады. Предельные парциальные мольные объемы BMIMBF $_4$, BMIMPF $_6$ и BMIMBr в PC незначительно увеличиваются с ростом температуры. Предельный парциальный мольный объем катиона BMIM † , полученный из трех ионных жидкостей с разными анионами, имеет одинаковую величину 115 см 3 /моль при 298.15 К.

Собственный радиус катиона $BMIM^{\dagger}$, рассчитанный квантово-химически на уровне M062X/6-311++G(d,p), оказался больше чем полученный из эксперимента по плотности и указывает на то, что сольватация вносит отрицательный вклад в кажущийся парциальный мольный объем иона в пропиленкарбонате.

Для исследования микроскопической структуры сольватной оболочки BMIM⁺ в PC выполнено молекулярно-динамическое моделирование бесконечно разбавленного раствора в *NVT* ансамбле при 298.15 К. Результаты моделирования указывают на то, что первая сольватная оболочка катиона состоит из 5-6 молекул пропиленкарбоната, проникающих во внутреннее пространство катиона, что согласуется с результатами денсиметрического эксперимента. Из анализа функций радиального распределения и текущих координационных чисел катион-молекула растворителя установлено, что наиболее вероятным координационным центром молекулы PC является кислород карбонильной группы.

Ключевые слова: денсиметрия, плотность, кажущийся парциальный молярный объем, сольватация, 1-бутил-3-метилимидазолий, тетрафтороборат, гексафторофосфат, бромид, пропиленкарбонат, молекулярно-динамическое моделирование.

А.В. Рябчунова*, В.М. Карабцова*, О.Н. Калугін*. Густина і сольватаційні ефекти іонних рідин на основі імідазолія в пропілен карбонаті.

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Представлені результати денсиметричного дослідження розчинів тетрафтороборату (BMIMBF $_4$), гексафторофосфату (BMIMPF $_6$) і броміду (BMIMBr) 1-бутил-3-метилімідазолія в пропілен карбонаті (PC) при 298.15, 318.15, 338.15 та 358.15 К. Отримані дані розглянуті з точки зору уявних парціальних мольних об'ємів і вкладу сольватації. Вимірювання густини виконані з використанням денсиметра Mettler Toledo DM 50 з точністю \pm 3·10⁻⁵ г/см³.

Граничні парціальні молярні об'єми досліджених іонних рідин в РС були отримані з експериментальних даних по густині з використанням рівняння Мессона і розділені на іонні складові. Граничні парціальні молярні об'єми ВМІМВF₄, ВМІМРF₆ и ВМІМВг в РС незначно збільшуються з ростом температури. Граничний парціальний молярний об'єм катіона ВМІМ⁺, отриманий з трьох іонних рідин з різними аніонами, має одна-

кову величину 115 см³/моль при 298.15 К.

Власний радіус катіона ВМІМ⁺ розрахований квантово-хімічно на рівні М062X/6-311++G(d,p) виявився більше ніж отриманий з експерименту по густині і вказує на те, що сольватація вносить негативний вклад до уявного парціального молярного об'єму іона в пропілен карбонаті.

Для дослідження мікроскопічної структури сольватної оболонки ВМІМ[†] в РС виконано молекулярнодинамічне моделювання безмежно розведеного розчину в *NVT* ансамблі при 298.15 К. Результати моделювання вказують на те, що перша сольватна оболонка катіона складається з 5-6 молекул пропілен карбонату, що проникають у внутрішній простір катіона, що узгоджується з результатами денсиметричного експерименту. З аналізу функцій радіального розподілу та поточних координаційних чисел катіон-молекула розчинника встановлено що найбільш ймовірним координаційним центром молекули РС є Оксиген карбонільної групи.

Ключові слова: денсиметр, густина, парціальний молярний об'єм, сольватація, 1-бутил-3-метилімідазолій, тетрафтороборат, гексафторофосфат, бромід, пропілен карбонат, молекулярнодинамічне моделювання.

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