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M. J. Earle, S. P. Katdare and K. R. Seddon, Org. Lett. 2004, 6, 707.

Understanding molecular drivers





Eyring equation



























H. M. Yau, S. A. Barnes, J. M. Hook, T. G. A. Youngs, A. K. Croft, and J. B. Harper, *Chem. Commun.*, 3576, 2008







S. G. Jones, H. M. Yau, E. Davies, T. G. A. Youngs, J. B. Harper and A. K. Croft, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 1873-1878, **12**(8), 2010





	Ethanol	Ionic liquid
ΔH [‡] / kJ.mol ⁻¹	48.3 ± 1.4	49.6 ± 0.6
ΔS [‡] / J.K ⁻¹ .mol ⁻¹	-252 ± 4	-229 ± 2

S. G. Jones, H. M. Yau, E. Davies, T. G. A. Youngs, J. B. Harper and A. K. Croft, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 1873-1878, **12**(8), 2010





	Ethanol	Ionic liquid
Δ(ΔH [‡]) / kJ.mol ⁻¹		1
$\Delta(\Delta S^{\ddagger}) / J.K^{-1}.mol^{-1}$		\uparrow

S. G. Jones, H. M. Yau, E. Davies, T. G. A. Youngs, J. B. Harper and A. K. Croft, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 1873-1878, **12**(8), 2010

An anion- π interaction



S_N1 S_NAr S_N2 Cation – bmim⁺ F NO_2 NO₂ Anion – $NTf_2^ \begin{array}{c} \bigcirc \\ F_3C_S N_S CF_3 \\ O^{-1} I I^{-1}O \\ O O \end{array}$

S. G. Jones, H. M. Yau, E. Davies, T. G. A. Youngs, J. B. Harper and A. K. Croft, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 1873-1878, **12**(8), 2010

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Organisation relative to ethanol





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Anion-dominated changes





Mentschukin reaction



S_N2



Hammett data





H. M. Yau, A. G. Howe, J. M. Hook, A. K. Croft, J. B. Harper, Org. Biomol. Chem., 3572-3575, **7**, 2009.

Hammett data





H. M. Yau, A. G. Howe, J. M. Hook, A. K. Croft, J. B. Harper, Org. Biomol. Chem., 3572-3575, **7**, 2009.

Complex data







	ΔH‡ / kJ.mol ⁻¹		ΔS [‡] / J.K ⁻¹ .mol ⁻¹	
Substituent	Acetonitrile	lonic liquid	Acetonitrile	Ionic liquid
R = OCH ₃	40.9 ± 1.2	47.7 ± 1.1	-220 ± 4	-188 ± 4
R = <i>p</i> -CH ₃	43.2 ± 1.1	48.8 ± 0.9	-219 ± 4	-193 ± 3
R = <i>o</i> -CH ₃	42.6 ± 1.3	53.5 ± 2.0	-226 ± 4	-181 ± 7
R = H	43.4 ± 0.8	49.9 ± 0.8	-224 ± 3	-195 ± 3
R = Br	47.7 ± 1.0	51.5 ± 1.2	-210 ± 3	-191 ± 4
R = COOCH ₃	50.0 ± 2.8	53.1 ± 2.1	-205 ± 9	-187 ± 4
$R = NO_2$	44.2 ± 1.0	48.7 ± 0.7	-225 ± 3	-207 ± 2

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H. M. Yau, A. K. Croft and J. B. Harper, *Faraday Discuss.* **2012**, *154*, 365. H. M. Yau, S. Keaveney, B. Butler, E. Tanner, M. Guerry, S. George, M. Dunn, A. K. Croft and J. B. Harper, *Pure Appl. Chem.*, **2013**, *85*, 1979.



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 $S_N 2$







Organisation around Nitrogen key







- Ionic liquids are not the same as molecular solvents.
 - Being mixtures of ions introduces more significant interactions than in molecular solvents.
 - Considering them in terms developed for molecular solvents does not work.
- Electrostatic interactions with (incipient) charges aren't as important as is often touted it is all about the entropy.
 - Organisation about both starting material and transition state must be considered, in all forms.
- There is the potential to exploit these effects in controlling reaction outcome



- Upgrade calculations to ensure effects are taken into account
 - Switch from DL_POLY to Amber
 - Start incorporating polarisation

Acknowledgements



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