On Polarizability Ef fect of Alkyl Substituent

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The rel a tive polarizability effect of alkyl substituent can be conveniently obtained by calculating the so-called Polarizability Effect In dex (PEI) value, proposed firstly in our laboratories, $PEI = \sum (a_i/N_i^2)$, where a_i is the polarizability of primary units CH₃, CH₂-, CH< and >C-, and the N_i is the car bon atom number from reaction site to the primary unit. By using the PEI and atomic charge in a molecule, the ionization potential of alkyl halide, the enthalpy of reaction for the gas-phase addition of a proton to an alcoholorether (proton affinity), the gas-phase basic ity of alcohols or ethers (proton affinity), and gas-phase acid ity of alcohols can be quantitatively modeled by the two-parameter expression equation.

INTRODUCTION

Polarizability ef fect is one of the four pri mary kinds of substituent effects in cluding field effect, electronegativity effect, polarizability effect and resonance effect. 1 It arises from the sta bi li za tion pro vided by the probe charge or di pole induc ing a di pole in the substituent. Now, or ganic chem ists can ex plain the gas-phase acid i ties, and basicities of alkylsubstituted amines, mercaptanes, al co hols and ethers with it. There are differ ent methods to eval u ate the polarizability effect. Gasteiger et al.³ pro posed ef fec tive polarizability as substituent polarizability effect contributions, but the derivation of a polarizability scale has proved dif fi cult.² Taft¹ and Topsom² got the polarizability po ten tials (\mathbb{Q}_{\bullet}) from the quantum chemical method. How ever, it is not easy to see the change law and to pre dict the rel a tive mag ni tude of the polarizability for alkyl substituents with their method. In this work, a new ap proach being both simple and having physical mean ing was pro posed to quan tify the polarizability of alkyl substituents.

POLARIZABILITY EFFECT INDEX (PEI)

As we know, the sta bilizing en ergy, E, caused by polar-

izability effect for a subsituent in teracting with a point charge q is:

$$E = -(a q^2) / (2Dr^4) \tag{1}$$

where a is the polarizability of the substituent, D is the effective di elec tric con stant, and r the distance of the point charge q to the center of substituent polarizability. For an alkyl substituent R, the to tal sta bi liz ing en ergy E (Eq1) can be taken as the sum of con tri bu tions from pri mary units, such as CH₃, CH₂-, CH< and >C-, which con sists of three C-H bonds, two C-H and one C-C bonds, one C-H and two C-C bonds, and three C-C bonds, re spec tively. For in stance, the to tal polarizability en ergy E of n-butyl and i-butyl can be cal culated as fol lows. In Equation 1, a_i is the polarizability of ith pri mary unit, and r_i the distance of the charge (q) to the ith car bon atom. There fore, we can re write the Eq. 1 as Eq. 2 for alkyl substituent (Also see Fig. 1).

$$E = -(q^2/2D) (\Sigma_i a_i/r_i^4)$$
 (2)

How to de ter mine the a_i and r_i of Eq. 2? Here, we take the sum of polarizability of all bonds in the *i*th pri mary unit as the a_i value. That is, for CH₃, CH₂-, CH< and >C-, their a_i are $\alpha_{Me} = 3\alpha_{C-H}$, $\alpha_{CH-} = 2\alpha_{C-H}$, α_{C-C} , $\alpha_{CH-} = \alpha_{C-H}$, α_{C-C} , and $\alpha_{C-C} = 3$

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Fig. 1. Sche matics for cal cu lation of the total polarizability en ergy *E* of propyl (a), n-butyl (b), iso-butyl (c), n-amyl (pentyl, d) and iso-amyl (e).

 $\alpha_{\text{C-C}}$, re spec tively. Ac cording to Miller's work, ⁴ the $\alpha_{\text{C-H}} = 1/4$ $\alpha_{\text{CTE}} + \alpha_{\text{H}}$, and the $\alpha_{\text{C-C}} = 2 \times (1/4) \times \alpha_{\text{CTE}}$. From the ex perimen tal polarizabilities of H atom ($\alpha_{\text{H}} = 0.353 \cdot \text{Å}^3$) and C atom (SP³ hybridization, $\alpha_{\text{C-H}} = 1/4$ $\alpha_{\text{CTE}} = 1.443 \cdot \text{Å}^3$), we got the a_i of CH₃, CH₂-, CH< and >C- are 2.156, 2.159, 2.162 and 2.164 (ų), re spec tively. The a_i of all four pri mary units are approx i mately equal to 2.16 (ų).

As to the r_i of Eq. 2, it is difficult to calculate the ab solute values. But we may use their rel a tive distance for discussing the E value or der of different alkyl substituents. Statis tically, the mean-square end-to-end distance $< L_0^2 >$ of a molecular chain $-(CH_2)_{N^-}$ is proportional to the number N of repeating unit CH_2 .

$$\langle L_0^2 \rangle = kN_i \tag{3}$$

There fore, we pro pose that the r_i^2 of Eq. 2 is also approx i mately equal to kN_i

$$r_i^2 = kN_i \tag{4}$$

where N_i is the car bon atom num ber from the point charge to the *i*th pri mary unit in molecular chain. Now, substituting, the kN_i for r_i^2 , we lead to Eq. 5 from Eq. 2.

$$E = -(q^{2}/2D) (\Sigma_{i} a_{i}/k^{2}N_{i}^{4}) = E$$

= -(q^{2}/2D k^{2}) (\Sigma_{i} a_{i}/N_{i}^{4}) = K \cdot PEI (5)

For a given sys tem, the q and D were given. Let $K = -q^2/(2Dk^2)$, thus, Eq. 5 be comes Eq. 6.

$$E = K(\Sigma_i a_i/N_i^4) = K \cdot PEI$$
 (6)

We call this sum term $\sum (a_i/N_i^2)$ the Polarizability Ef fect In dex (PEI). To the chain alkyl substituent, when the polarizability of the *i*th pri mary unit is taken as $a_i = 2.16$ the *E* of Eq. 6 may be ex pressed as Eq. 7:

$$E = K(\Sigma_{i} a_{i}/N_{i}^{4}) = K(\Sigma_{i} 2.16/k^{2}N_{i}^{4})$$

= K'(\Sigma_{i}1/N_{i}^{4}) = K\text{PEIA} (7)

where K' = 2.16 K, PEIA is the PEI of alkyl substituent. In this case, we can directly predict the polarizability or der of the alkyl groups using PEIA value. Table 1 reports PEIA values of some substituents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Ta ble 1 shows that the PEIA value in creases as the carbon atom num ber in creases for the nor mal alkyl sub stitu ents, but the in cre ment de creases rap idly as the car bon atom number in creases. In fact, there is a limit value, $\lim_{N\to\infty} (\Sigma_i \ 1/N_i^4) = \pi^2/6$. When the car bon atom num bers are the same, the more the groups bonded to the car bon ra dial, the big ger the PEIA

Table 1. Values of Some Alkyl Substituents

No.	Group	PEIA	No.	Group	PEIA	No.	Group	PEIA
01	CH ₃	1.0000	08	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₆ CH ₂ -	1.5274	15	(CH ₃) ₂ CHCH ₂ CH ₂ -	1.4861
02	CH ₃ CH ₂ -	1.2500	09	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₇ CH ₂ -	1.5398	16	CH ₃ CH ₂ C(CH ₃) ₂ -	1.8611
03	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ -	1.3611	10	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₈ CH ₂ -	1.5498	17	(CH ₃) ₃ CCH ₂ -	1.6944
04	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₂ CH ₂ -	1.4236	11	$(CH_3)_2CH$ -	1.5000	18	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₂ CH(CH ₃)-	1.6736
05	$CH_3(CH_2)_3CH_2$ -	1.4636	12	(CH ₃) ₂ CHCH ₂ -	1.4722	19	(CH ₃ CH ₂) ₂ CH-	1.7222
06	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₄ CH ₂ -	1.4914	13	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH(CH ₃)-	1.6111	20	(CH ₃) ₂ CHCH(CH ₃)-	1.7222
07	$CH_3(CH_2)_5CH_2$ -	1.5118	14	(CH ₃)C-	1.7500			

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value is. For in stance, the PEIA value or der is: i-Pr > n-Pr; t-Bu > s-Bu > i-Bu > n-Bu.

With comparison to Taft's ¹ polarizability potential from Eq. 7, we pre dict there will be a lin ear re la tion be tween the PEIA value of alkyl sub stitu ents and Taft's polarizability potential \mathbb{Q}_{\bullet} . Re gressing or plot ting PEIA ver sus \mathbb{Q}_{\bullet} , the regres sion Equa tion (A) and the lin ear fig ure (omit ted, due to its poor in for ma tion and the article's limitation of space) shows there is an excel lent lin ear correlation be tween PEIA and \mathbb{Q}_{\bullet} . Based on Equation (A) and H atom polarizability potential ¹ (\mathbb{Q}_{\bullet} (H) = 0.00), we got the H atom PEIA value be ing 0.3387 (this is done in or der to discuss the problem con veniently).

Ionization Potential of Alkyl Halide

The first application of PEIA is the ion ization potential Ip of Alkyl Ha lide RX (X = I, Br and Cl). In gen eral, the first electron ion ized from RX is the p-electron of X atom in mol ecule RX.⁵ For a given X atom (X = Cl, Br or I), Ip(RX) depends on two fac tors, one is the charge on the X atom, the other is the polarizability of alkyl substituent R. In this work,

we use Bratsch's 6 method of equal ized electronegativity to cal cu late the charge on the X atom. Since the polarizability en ergy of R is pro por tional to the PEIA (see Eq. 7), we use PEIA values to ex press the rel a tive polarizability or der of group R.

Cal cu lated in put data for the re gres sion anal y sis are recorded in Ta ble 2, along with the ex per i men tal val ues. The I_p data on alkyl ha lide were pro cessed by re gres sion anal y sis jointly against ei ther a sin gle pa ram e ter of com bi na tions of two, and their rel e vant re sults are col lected in Ta ble 3. It is readily seen that the cor re la tions with the best re sults are those of the mul ti ple lin ear re gres sion (MLR) anal y ses with two-parameter mod els those based on q_x (X = I, Br and Cl) along with sta tis tics (Eqs. 8, 9 and 10, Ta ble 3, en tries 3, 6 and 9), we can reprocuce the I_p data set of RX sat is fac to rily. They are also re corded in Ta ble 2.

$$\begin{split} &I_p(RI) = 10.94 - 0.603 \ \Sigma (1/N_i^2) + 6.77 q_I - \\ &n = 9, \ r = 0.999, \ s = 0.0077 \end{split} \tag{8} \\ &I_p(RBr) = 11.89 - 0.764 \ \Sigma (1/N_i^2) + 3.19 q_{Br} - \\ &n = 9, \ r = 0.999, \ s = 0.0093 \end{split} \tag{9} \\ &I_p(RCl) = 14.89 - 0.589 \ \Sigma (1/N_i^2) + 12.66 q_{Cl} - \\ &n = 8, \ r = 0.982, \ s = 0.0520 \end{split} \tag{10}$$

The re gres sion expressons are en tirely con sis tent with

Table 2. Experimental and Calculated Ionization Potential Ip(eV) and Molecular Parameters

No	Mol.R-X	$q_x(I)$	q _x (Br)	q _x (Cl)	PEIA	Ionization potential					
	RX(I,Br,Cl)	$q_{\rm I}$	$q_{\text{Br}} \\$	q_{Cl}		X=I,exptl.a	calcd. (8)	X=Br,exptl.	calcd. (9)	X=Cl,exptl.a	calcd. (10)
1	MeI	-0.118	-0.185	-0.236	1.0000	9.54	9.54	10.54	10.54	11.31	11.31
2	EtI	-0.24	-0.204	-0.250	1.2500	9.33	9.35	10.28	10.28	11.01	10.99
3	n-PrI	-0.127	-0.209	-0.255	1.3611	9.26	9.26	10.18	10.18	10.88	10.86
4	n-BuI	-0.128	-0.211	-0.259	1.4236	9.21	9.21	10.15	10.13	10.84	10.77
5	n-AmI	-0.129	-0.213		1.4636	9.19	9.18	10.10	10.09		
6	i-PrI	-0.127	-0.209	-0.255	1.5000	9.17	9.17	10.075	10.077	10.78	10.78
7	i-BuI	-0.128	-0.211	-0.259	1.4722	9.18	9.18	10.09	10.09	10.66	10.74
8	s-BuI	-0.128	-0.211	-0.259	1.6111	9.09	9.10	9.98	9.99	10.65	10.66
9	t-BuI	-0.128	-0.211	-0.259	1.7500	9.02	9.02	9.89	9.88	10.61	10.58

^a Data of MeBr-n-BuBr and MeCl-n-BuCl taken from Ref. 7, others from Ref. 8

Table 3. Results of Correlation Analysis for Ionization Potential with q_X and PEIA of RX (X=I, Br, Cl)

Entry	Ionization Potential	RI: r ^a	s ^b	Entry	Ionization Potential	r ^a	s ^b	Entry	Ionization Potential	r a	s ^b
1	$q_{\rm I}$		7.2*10 ⁻²		q_{Br}		9.6*10 ⁻²		\mathbf{q}_{Cl}		8.4*10 ⁻²
2	$PEIA' = \sum (1/N_i^2)$	0.996	1.5*10 ⁻²	5	$PEIA' = \sum (1/N_i^2)$	0.995	$1.9*10^{-2}$	8	$PEIA' = \sum (1/N_i^2)$	0.960	$7.0*10^{-2}$
3	$q_{I, \Sigma}(1/N_i^2)$	0.999	$7.7*10^{-3}$	6	$q_{Br}, \Sigma(1/N_i^2)$	0.999	$9.3*10^{-3}$	9	$q_{Cl}, \Sigma(1/N_i^2)$	0.982	$5.2*10^{-2}$
n	RX=RI	(n=9)			RX=RBr	n=9			RX=RCl	n=8	

^a Relation coefficient. ^b Standard deviation in eV. ^c Number of compound in data set.



in tu ition and ex pe ri ence, in that the neg a tive signs of the PEIA = $\Sigma(1/N_i^2)$ co ef fi cients in di cate that an in crease in polarizability in creases the cation stabilization and results in lower *I*p. In con trast, the positive sign of the q_xcoefficients re flects the fact that the halo gen atom in RX (X = Cl, Br, I) is difficult to be ionized.

Ac cord ing to the "Prin ci ple of Electronegativity Equalization", 9 the at oms of the same element in an iso mer carry the same charge (e.g. the I atom in n-PrI car ries the same charge). How ever, they do not have the same ion iza tion potential *Ip* in deed. Why? It is due to the different polarizability of the iso meric groups. The regres sion models can reproduce the observed differences in *Ip* between iso meric mole cules (e.g., n-PrX/i-PrX; n-BuX/i-BuX/s-BuX/t-BuX). In each case the difference is due mainly to polarizability in fluences.

Proton Affinity of Alcohols and Ethers

From the dis cus sion above, it may be pre dicted that the pro ton af finity (PA) of protonation reaction (Eq. 11) of al co-

hols and ethers will in crease as the Polarizability Ef fect In dex (PEI), PEI = $\sum (a_i/N_i^2)$, of groups R and R' in creases, and decrease as the pos i tive charge q_o on an ox y gen atom in the ROR' mol e cule in creases. Using the charge on the ox y gen atom q_o , PEI, $\sum (a_i/N_i^2)$ of al co hols and ethers, and the ex per imen tal PA val ues¹⁰⁻¹² in Ta ble 4, we ob tained the following cal cu lated re sults from the lin ear multiple re gression analysis:

$$R-O-R'+H' \rightarrow R-OH'-R'$$
 (11)

$$PA = 128.4 - 129.7q_0 + 5.333$$

$$n = 23$$
, $r = 0.996$, $s = 0.67$ kcal/mol (12)

The ex pres sion (Eq. 12) is consistent with the physical interpretation. By the comparison between experimental and calculated PA values in Table 4, it is seen that Eq. 12 is successful.

The use ful ness of the ex pres sion can be fur ther tested through its ability to pre dict *PA*'s of mole cules. Several such

Table 4.	Experimental and	Calculated Proton	Affinity values at	nd Molecular Parameters a
Tuoic 7.	Experimental and	Curculated 1 10toll	ranning values ar	id Molecular I drameters

No.	Molecule		q_{o}	$PEIA = \sum (a_i/N_i^2)$	Proton	Affinity(PA)
ROR':	R	R'			exptl. b	calcd. c
1	Me	Н	-0.3026	2.8916	182.5	183.1
2	Et	H	-0.3119	3.4316	187.8	187.2
3	n-Pr	H	-0.31695	3.6716	189.6	189.0
4	n-Bu	H	-0.3192	3.8066	190.2	190.1
5	i-Pr	H	-0.3165	3.9716	192.0	190.6
6	t-Bu	H	-0.3192	4.5101	193.4	193.9
7	Me	Me	-0.3119	4.3200	191.1	191.9
8	Et	Me	-0.3165	4.8600	195.2	195.4
9	n-Pr	Me	-0.3192	5.1000	196.1	197.0
10	n-Bu	Me	-0.3210	5.2350	197.3	198.0
11	i-Pr	Me	-0.3192	5.4000	198.6	198.6
12	t-Bu	Me	-0.3210	5.9400	201.1	201.7
13	1-Admantyl	Me	-0.3179	6.9295	206.0	206.6
14	Et	Et	-0.3192	5.4000	198.5	198.6
15	i-Pr	Et	-0.3210	5.9400	202.3	201.7
16	t-Bu	Et	-0.3223	6.4800	205.1	204.8
17	n-Pr	n-Pr	-0.3223	5.8800	201.1	201.6
18	i-Pr	i-Pr	-0.3223	6.4800	204.8	204.3
19	t-Bu	t-Bu	-0.3229	2.5600	212.0	210.8
20	$(CH_2)_2O$	Cyclic ethers	-0.2967	3.6011	186.4	186.1
21	$(CH_2)_3O$		-0.3069	4.4634	193.2	193.2
22	(CH ₂) ₄ O		-0.3124	5.2203	197.6	196.8
23	$(CH_2)_5O$		-0.3157	5.5596	198.5	199.0

^a q₀ calculated from Ref. 6; $\sum (a_i/N_i^2)$ is the sum of alkyl groups and H atom (for ROH). For H atom of ROH, the $1/N_i^2 = 0.3387$ (see text for detail), and here, the value of $a_i/N_i^2 = 2.16*0.3387$.



^b Data taken from Ref. 10.

^c Calculated from Eq. 12.

ex am ples not in cluded in the com pi la tion of data orig i nally used for the multipe lin ear re gres sion (MLR) anal y sis are avail able. Thus the PA values cal cu lated from re gres sion anal y sis are avail able. Thus the PA value cal cu lated from Eq. 12 (ex per i men tal value), for n-Bu₂O is 203.2(203.7), that for s-Bu₂O is 207.6(209.0), that for n-Am₂O is 204.3(205.2), and that for i-Pr,O-, t-Bu,O- is 207.8(208.8).

Gas-Phase Acidity of Alcohols

In fact, the gas-phase acid ity of al co hols can be expressed by the gas-phase basic ity of alkoxide ion in reaction of Eq. 13.

$$RO^- + H^+ \rightarrow ROH$$
, ΔG° (basicity) (13)

The ΔG° (ba sic ity) of Eq. 13 is equal to the (acid) of al co hol ROH. Similar to the PA of al co hol, we take the ΔG° (basic ity) as a positive value. That is, the more the ΔG° (basic ity) of Eq. 13 is, the stronger the basic ity of alkoxide ion RO is, and the weaker the acid ity of al co hol ROH is. The smaller ΔG° (basic ity) value in dicates the stronger acid ity of al co hol ROH.

The
$$\Delta G^{\circ}$$
 (ba sic ity) of Eq. 13 can be de scribed by Eq. 14.
 ΔG° (ba sic ity) = 359.7 - 43.39 q_o - 4.588 $\sum (1/N_i^2)$
n = 7, r = 0.998, s = 0.45 kcal/mol (14)

where q_o is the charge on an ox y gen atom of alkoxide ion RO. The relevant molecular parameters and (basicity) values (experimental and calculated from Eq. 14) are recorded in Table 5. The results show that the calculated ΔG° (basicity) values correspond to better experimental values.

In Eq. 14, the signs of and co efficients all are neg a tive. It in di cates that a pos i tive charge of an ox y gen atom in RO and polarizability of all groups (R) de crease the basic ity of

Table 5. Experimental and Calculated (basicity, △G°) Values of RO⁻ and Molecular Parameters a

RO	RO⁻	$q_{\rm o}$	$\sum (1/N_i^2)$	Basicity	ΔG°
				(exptl ^b)	(calcd. c)
1	HO	-0.6099	0.3387	384.5	384.6
2	MeO ⁻	-0.4380	1.0000	374.0	373.8
3	EtO-	-0.3922	1.2500	371.4	371.0
4	n-PrO	-0.3747	1.3611	369.5	369.7
5	i-PrO⁻	-0.3747	1.5000	368.5	369.1
6	t-BuO	-0.3649	1.7500	368.0	367.5
7	s-BuO	-0.3649	1.6111	367.6	368.1

^a q₀ calculated from Ref. 6.

alkoxide ion RO $^-$. In other words, they all in crease the acid ity of al co hol ROH. This case is still consistent with the physical in terpretation. The positive charge of an oxygen atom in RO results in decreasing the ability of combination between the RO $^-$ and H $^+$; it increases the stabilization of the negative charge in RO $^-$, and results in a lower I_p . There fore, the polarizability of R also decreases the basic ity of RO $^-$ and in creases the acid ity of ROH.

CONCLUSION

The rel a tive polarizability of an alkyl substituent can be pre dicted by the very sim ple method that re flects both the atomic prop erty (polarizability) and mo lec u lar struc ture in this work. Starting from the mo lec u lar static char acter is tics (mo lec u lar equal ized electronegativity and the charge on a given atom) and the dy namic prop erty (polarizability), we may ex plain and pre dict quantitatively the ion ization potential, gas-phase acid ity and basic ity for some substituted hydro car bon compounds. The present approach can be used more widely than that stated above. These applications will be reported in the author's future papers.

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Key Words

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^b Data taken from Ref. 10.

^c Calculated from Eq. 12.

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