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Relative Hydrophobicity and Hydrophilicity of Some "Ionic Liquid" Anions Determined by the 1-Propanol Probing Methodology: A Differential Thermodynamic Approach

Hitoshi Kato,† Keiko Nishikawa,‡ and Yoshikata Koga*,§

Graduate School of Science and Technology, Chiba University, Chiba, Japan 263-8522, Graduate School of Advanced Integration Science, Chiba University, Chiba, Japan 263-8522, Department of Chemistry, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z1, and Research Center for Molecular Thermodynamics, Graduate School of Science, Osaka University, Toyonaka, Osaka 560-0043, Japan

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The excess partial molar enthalpy of 1-propanol (1P), H_{1P}^{E} , was experimentally measured in ternary 1P-[NaPF₆, NaCF₃SO₃ (OTF) or NaN(SO₂CF₃)₂ (TFSI)]-H₂O system. From the H_{1P}^{E} data, the enthalpic 1P—1P interaction function, H_{1P-1P}^{E} , which is the compositional derivative of H_{1P}^{E} , was evaluated graphically. On addition of the Na salt, the x_{1P} -dependence pattern of H_{1P-1P}^{E} showed a characteristic change. This induced change is used as a probe to elucidate the effect of the sample Na-salt on H₂O. Because we know the effect of Na⁺ from our previous work, we show that each anion works as an amphiphile with hydrophobic and hydrophilic effects. Furthermore, the present method can quantify its relative hydrophobicity and hydrophilicity separately. The results indicate that the relative hydrophobicity ranking was in the order of TFSI⁻ > PF₆⁻ \approx OTF⁻, and the hydrophilicity TFSI⁻ > PF₆⁻ > OTF⁻. Namely, TFSI⁻ is the strongest amphiphile with the strongest hydrophobicity and the strongest hydrophilicity among the ionic liquid (IL) anions studied here. Using our earlier similar studies for normal ions, we map their relative hydrophobicity/hydrophilicity scales on a two-dimensional map together with those of the IL ions. The resulting map shows that the typical constituent ions for "ionic liquids" are strong amphiphiles; with more strongly hydrophobic and more strongly hydrophobic to the number of data points is limited, the melting points of ionic liquids consisting of TFSI⁻ with the strongest hydrophobicity and the strongest hydrophilicity within the anions studied here are the lowest.

Introduction

Ionic liquids (IL's) are attracting a great deal of attention as a new group of compounds. 1-3 Their properties such as nonvolatility, chemical and thermal stability, and high ionic conductivity are very attractive for solvents in the chemical industry; in particular, the low volatility makes it even more attractive for environmental concern. As for the physicochemical interests, the most peculiar nature is their low melting points, in spite of the fact that they consist of cations and anions. For example, 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium ([bmim]) bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)imide (TFSI), one of IL's takes the liquid state even below 0 °C,4 while the melting point of a typical ionic compound, NaCl, is 801 °C. Generally, IL's absorb moisture from the atmosphere, and their physical properties are often changed by the presence of H₂O.^{5,6} This hygroscopic nature of IL can be an obstacle for use as chemical reaction media, electrolytes, and other various applications. Therefore, the effect of H₂O on IL is an important information and has been investigated by various methods.^{5,6}

Being ionic compounds, the chemistries of their aqueous solutions may be of great interest, just as those of aqueous alkali halides, for example. To this end, we have studied the effects of an IL ion on H₂O in binary IL—H₂O systems⁷ using a differential thermodynamic methodology.^{8–10} Unlike conven-

tional solution thermodynamics, we evaluate the higher-order derivatives of Gibbs function, G.

By this method, we have elucidated the mixing schemes or the molecular-level processes in aqueous solutions of both electrolytes $^{11-14}$ and nonelectrolytes 9,10,15 to unprecedented depth. For binary aqueous 1-propanol (1P), 1P-H₂O, for example, we experimentally determined the excess partial molar enthalpy of 1P, H_{1P}^{E} , which is the second derivative of excess Gibbs function, G^{E} . Namely,

$$H_{1P}^{E} \equiv \left(\frac{\partial H^{E}}{\partial n_{1P}}\right) \tag{1}$$

where $H^{\rm E}$ is the excess enthalpy of the entire system and $n_{\rm IP}$ is the amount of 1P. As eq 1 suggests, $H_{\rm IP}^{\rm E}$ shows the effect of incoming 1P on the total enthalpy of system and hence it signifies the actual enthalpic situation of 1P. We then take one more compositional derivative as

$$H_{1P-1P}^{E} \equiv N \left(\frac{\partial H_{1P}^{E}}{\partial n_{1P}} \right) = (1 - x_{1P}) \left(\frac{\partial H_{1P}^{E}}{\partial x_{1P}} \right)$$
(2)

where x_{1P} is the mole fraction of 1P. As is evident from eq 2, H_{1P-1P}^{E} indicates the effect of incoming 1P on the enthalpic situation of existing 1P. Hence, H_{1P-1P}^{E} is an indicator of 1P-1P interaction in terms of enthalpy. Using these and other second and third derivative quantities, 9,10,16 we showed that in binary 1P-H₂O there are three composition regions in each of

^{*} Corresponding author. E-mail: koga@chem.ubc.ca.

[†] Graduate School of Science and Technology, Chiba University.

[‡] Graduate School of Advanced Integration Science, Chiba University.

[§] The University of British Columbia and Osaka University.

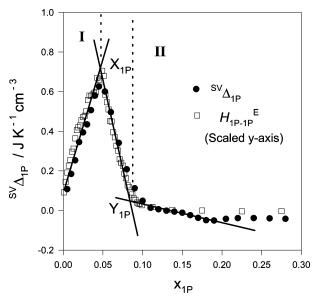


Figure 1. x_{1P} dependencies of the enthalpic 1P-1P interaction function, H^{E}_{1P-1P} (open square), and partial molar normalized entropy-volume cross fluctuation of 1P, ${}^{SV}\Delta_{1P}$ (filled circle). This graph is taken from ref 16.

which the mixing scheme is qualitatively different from those in the other regions. We call these three mixing schemes from the H₂O-rich region Mixing Schemes I. II. and III. In the H₂Orich region ($x_{1P} < 0.05$), the hydrogen-bond percolation remains intact as in pure H2O. Only in this region, "icebergs" are formed around 1P molecules. 17 Namely, 1P molecules locally enhance the hydrogen-bond network of H₂O in the vicinity of 1P. At the same time, the hydrogen-bond probability of the bulk H₂O away from 1P is reduced. But the hydrogen bond probability is still high enough that the hydrogen-bond percolation remains intact. We call this mode of mixing Mixing Scheme I, as mentioned above. At the threshold ($x_{1P} = 0.05$), the hydrogenbond network of the bulk H₂O loses its bond-percolation nature; that is, the network is no longer connected throughout the entire bulk. In the 1P-rich region where Mixing Scheme III is operative $(x_{1P} > 0.79)$, ^{8,9} 1P molecules form clusters of their own, to which H₂O molecules interact almost as a single molecule. Mixing Scheme II in the middle region is such that H₂O-rich clusters and 1P-rich ones are mixed.

As for IL $-\rm{H}_2\rm{O}$, we found, using the same methodology, that [bmim]BF₄ and [bmim]I dissociate completely in the very H₂O-rich region below $x_{\rm IL} < 0.015$ ($x_{\rm IL}$ is the mole fraction of IL).⁷ Some recent studies also suggested that the critical aggregation concentration of [bmim]BF₄ is $x_{\rm IL} = 0.013-0.017$.^{18–20} In the region, $0.015 < x_{\rm IL} < 0.5$, the IL ions seem to start aggregating, and eventually IL molecules cluster together with their own in the IL-rich region, $x_{\rm IL} > 0.5$. In this study, we seek the effects of each constituent anions of some IL on H₂O separately by the 1P-probing methodology developed by us earlier.^{11–15,21–24}

For binary 1P-H₂O, the transition from Mixing Scheme I to II was found to be associated with a peak anomaly as shown in Figure 1. 9,16 We have defined earlier the normalized entropy—volume (S-V) cross fluctuation, $^{SV}\Delta$, using the thermal expansivity data, α_p , which is another second derivative. 16,25 We then evaluate the effect of an additional 1P on $^{SV}\Delta$, the partial molar normalized S-V cross fluctuation of 1P, $^{SV}\Delta_{1P}$. Because of the putative formation/destruction of ice-like patches in liquid H₂O, the S-V cross fluctuation in H₂O contains a negative contribution, that is, a volume increase could be associated with an entropy decrease. In Figure 1, this $^{SV}\Delta_{1P}$ data are also plotted.

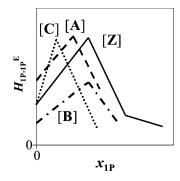


Figure 2. Schematic diagram of the H_{1P-1P}^{E} pattern. [Z] shows the case for binary $1P-H_2O$. In the presence of a third component S, the resulting H_{1P-1P}^{E} pattern shifts as shown by [A] for S = hydrophobic solutes in ternary $1P-S-H_2O$. The pattern indicated by [B] is for S = hydrophilic solutes, and that by [C] for S = hydration centers.

It is evident from the figure that the $x_{\rm IP}$ dependencies of $H^{\rm E}_{\rm 1P-1P}$ and ${}^{SV}\Delta_{\rm 1P}$ are identical to a single scaling factor on the ordinate. This suggests that the enthalpic 1P-1P interaction function, $H^{\rm E}_{\rm 1P-1P}$, and the effect of 1P on ${}^{SV}\Delta_{\rm 1P}$ share the same fundamental cause. Hence, the 1P-1P interaction is H₂O-mediated and of a long range, as discussed at some length earlier. If Thus, the initial increase in ${}^{SV}\Delta_{\rm 1P}$ (or $H^{\rm E}_{\rm 1P-1P}$) traces the process of decrease in the negative contribution in ${}^{SV}\Delta$. Therefore, we could follow the manner in which the bulk H₂O is modified by the addition of 1P, by the behavior of $H^{\rm E}_{\rm 1P-1P}$ (or ${}^{SV}\Delta_{\rm 1P}$).

On the basis of this finding, we devised the 1P probing methodology. We determine H_{1P-1P}^{E} in ternary 1P-sample-(S)- H_2O systems. As long as the mole fraction of sample, x_S^0 , is not high enough to destroy the integrity of H₂O completely, the H_{1P-1P}^{E} pattern makes some quantitative changes depending on the nature and the amount of S, while the basic peak pattern is retained. Those induced changes of the H_{1P-1P}^{E} peak pattern in the presence of S will provide how S modifies H₂O. We have calibrated this methodology earlier by using as S, 2-propanol²⁶ (an equal hydrophobe as 1P), urea²⁷ (a typical hydrophile), and 1,2-propendiol13 (an amphiphile) and studied their effects on the H_{1P-1P}^{E} pattern in 1P-S-H₂O. Figure 2 summarizes the results. If S is equally hydrophobic as 1P [A], then the peak shifts parallel to the left (west), keeping the height unchanged, and making the value of H_{1P-1P}^{E} at the starting point $(x_{1P} = 0)$ increase. In the case of S being a hydrophile [B], the value of H_{1P-1P}^{E} at point X decreases (or point X shifts to the south) and the locus of x_{1P} at point X remains unchanged. We argued with a support from a theoretical work (Idrissi et al., ref 28) that urea forms hydrogen bonds to the existing hydrogen bond network directly. By so doing, urea retards the degree of fluctuation in the whole aqueous solution, by breaking the H donor/acceptor symmetry of liquid H₂O. For an amphiphilic sample S, its effect appears as a combination of [A] and [B]. Namely, the locus of point X shifts to the left by the effect of its hydrophobic moiety. At the same time, its hydrophilic part makes the value of H_{1P-1P}^{E} decrease. As a result, point X shifts to the southwest. We also applied the same methodology for S=NaCl.11 It turned out that the results are as shown as [C] in Figure 2. The H_{1P-1P}^{E} pattern appears squashed to the left without changing the values of H_{1P-1P}^{E} at the start, $x_{1P} = 0$, and at point X. We thus suggested that NaCl hydrates a number of H₂O molecules making them unavailable for 1P to interact; that is, NaCl is a hydration center. 11,14 From the left shift of point X for a unit increase in x_S^0 , we found the

hydration number of NaCl to be 7.5 \pm 0.6. From the fact that the values of H_{1P-1P}^{E} at point X as well as at the start remain unchanged, we concluded that the bulk H2O away from the hydration shell remains unperturbed by the presence of NaCl. Although the "iceberg" formed around a hydrophobe is in effect a hydration shell, the hydrogen bonds are complete within "iceberg", with concomitant reduction of the hydrogen-bond probability of bulk H₂O away from "icebergs". Here for NaCl, we have no information on whether or not the hydrogen bonds are complete within the hydration shell for Na⁺ for example. Nonetheless, both hydrophobes and hydration centers cause point X of the H_{1P-1P}^{E} pattern to shift westward. A firstprinciple molecular dynamics study also showed that the Na⁺ ion hydrates 5.2 molecules of H₂O and leaves the bulk H₂O away from the hydration shell unperturbed (White et al., ref 29). The fact that the hydration number for Na⁺ is about 5 gains some more recent theoretical³⁰ and experimental^{31,32} support. Hence, we assign 5.2 to the hydration number for Na⁺. Accordingly, Cl⁻ hydrates 2.3 ± 0.6 molecules of H₂O and leaves the bulk H₂O away from the hydration shell unperturbed.

Here, we use the same 1P-probing methodology, to the Na⁺ salt of some anions that are common in typical ionic liquids, PF₆⁻, CF₃SO₃⁻ (OTF⁻), and N(SO₂CF₃)₂⁻ (TFSI⁻), collectively represented by IL⁻. Because the effect of Na⁺ is known, we seek how IL⁻ modifies H₂O within Mixing Scheme I. As will become evident below, the x_{1P} -dependence of H_{1P-1P}^{E} retains a peak pattern in the presence of Na⁺IL⁻ within the range of its initial mole fraction, x_S^0 studied here, which assures that the aqueous solutions of Na⁺IL⁻ are still in Mixing Scheme I. Thus, the induced shift of the peak, point X, would suggest how the sample Na⁺IL⁻ modifies H₂O. Assuming that Na⁺IL⁻ is completely dissociated, the effect of Na⁺ and that of IL⁻ can be separated with the previous knowledge about the former. It turned out that all of the IL- ions studied here work as amphiphiles with different degrees of hydrophobic and hydrophilic effects. We thus could evaluate the relative strength of hydrophobic and hydrophilic effects of each anion in terms of the rate of the induced west- and southward shifts of point X by a unit addition of IL-. We stress that our usage of "hydrophobic" and "hydrophilic" is limited strictly in this sense within our 1P-probing methodology.

In our previous paper,³³ we applied the same methodology and discussed the effect of [bmim]Cl on the molecular organization of H₂O. By knowing the effect of Cl⁻, it was shown that the [bmim]+ ion acts as an amphiphile also. The carbon atom between two nitrogens of [bmim]⁺ is known to be a protondonor,³⁴ which interacts with the hydrogen-bond network directly. Therefore, the hydrophilic part as well as the hydrophobic moiety of butyl chain brings about the net amphiphilic nature.

Experimental Section

For determining H_{1P}^{E} , a homemade titration calorimeter of a similar design to an LKB Bromma 8700 was used.³⁵ Briefly, about 5 mol of S-H₂O solution was measured in a titration cell, into which about 10 mmol of 1P (δn_{1P}) is titrated using a buret and the thermal response, $\delta q_{\rm p}$ was determined. $H_{\rm 1P}^{\rm E}$ is approximated by $\delta q_{
m p}/\delta n_{
m 1P}$. This ratio of the titrant to the titrand was earlier checked small enough for an acceptable approximation.³⁵ The uncertainty in H_{1P}^{E} is estimated as ± 0.03 kJ mol⁻¹. The temperature of the system is kept at 25 \pm 0.001 °C in a

NaPF₆(Wako), NaOTF (Wako), NaTFSI(JEMCO), and 1-propanol (Wako, special grade, >99.5%) were used as supplied.

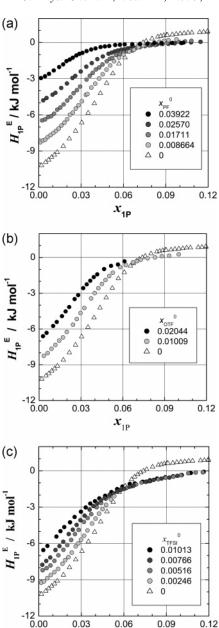


Figure 3. Excess partial molar enthalpy, H_{1P}^{E} , against x_{1P} , at 25 °C. (a) For 1P-NaPF₆-H₂O, (b) 1P-NaOTF-H₂O, and (c) 1P-NaTFSI-H₂O.

 $x_{_{\mathrm{1P}}}$

S-H₂O solutions were made gravimetrically immediately prior to use. 1-Propanol was kept in a dry nitrogen atmosphere during the course of the measurements.

Results and Discussion

Figure 3a-c show the H_{1P}^{E} data for the ternary systems, 1P-{NaPF₆, NaOTF, and NaTFSI}-H₂O, respectively. From the H_{1P}^{E} data, we evaluated H_{1P-1P}^{E} graphically by eq 2, without resorting to any model system. The detail of graphical differentiation is given earlier. ²² The results are shown in Figure 4. The uncertainty in H_{1P-1P}^{E} inevitably increases but is estimated to be not more than $\pm 10 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$. ²² It is clear from the figure that point X of each system shifts to the southwest, suggesting amphiphilic propensity. However, the west shift will contain the hydration effect by Na⁺. Figure 5 shows the changes in the value of x_{1P} at point X for each sample as a function of $x_{\rm S}^{0}$. Hence, the slope (negative) in the figure could be used as

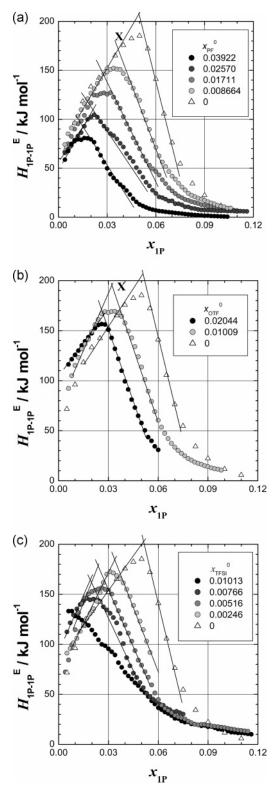


Figure 4. $x_{\rm IP}$ dependencies of the 1P-1P enthalpic interaction, $H^{\rm E}_{\rm 1P-1P}$. (a) For 1P-NaPF₆-H₂O, (b) 1P-NaOTF-H₂O, and (c) 1P-NaTFSI-H₂O.

a relative hydrophobicity index; that is, the stronger the hydrophobicity, the more negative the slope. It indicates the degree of the west shift induced by adding a unit amount of salts. In Figure 5, the west shift due to hydration by Na $^+$ is also shown as a broken line. Hence, each sample's hydrophobicity is evaluated from slopes in Figure 5 minus that for Na $^+$. From these negative slopes, therefore, the order of the relative hydrophobicity is TFSI $^-$ > PF $_6^-\approx$ OTF $^-$.

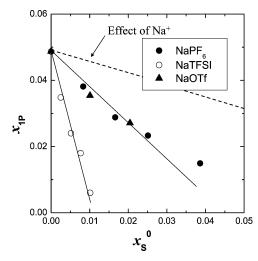


Figure 5. Mixing scheme boundary for $1P-S-H_2O$, which is the value of x_{1P} at point X against various initial mole fraction of the mixed solvent, x_S^0 . Broken line indicates the contribution of the hydration of Na^+ .

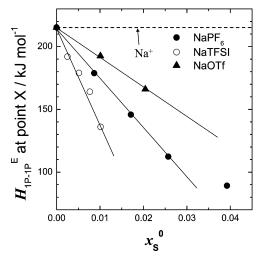


Figure 6. Locus of point X in terms of H_{1P-1P}^{E} against x_{S}^{0} in ternary $1P-S-H_{2}O$. Na⁺ has no effect on H_{1P-1P}^{E} at point X (broken line).

The loci of point X in terms of $H_{1P-1P}^{\rm E}$ are plotted in Figure 6. Note that Na⁺ does not change the height of point X. Therefore, the negative slope in this figure indicates the hydrophilic effect of each IL anion. This slope-ranking then becomes TFSI⁻ > PF₆⁻ > OTF⁻. Namely, TFSI⁻, a typical ionic liquid anion, is an amphiphile with the strongest hydrophobic as well as hydrophilic propensities among the anions studied here.

We earlier applied the same methodology to study the effect of various normal ions on H_2O . From the equivalent plots as Figure 5 and 6, we can evaluate the relative hydrophobicity/hydrophilicity indices for these normal ions. Figure 7 shows such plots for 16 ions including [bmim]⁺,³³ PF₆⁻, OTF⁻, and TFSI⁻. The abscissa of Figure 7 is the slopes (negative) of Figure 5 and equivalent figures for other normal ions. As mentioned above, both hydrophobes and hydration centers make point X shift westward. Therefore, both are plotted on the abscissa. The ordinate is the slopes (negative) of Figure 6 and equivalent figures. H_2O itself is placed at the origin because $S = H_2O$ in the $1P-S-H_2O$ system would not cause any shift in point X. As for normal ions studied so far, only acetate⁻ $(OAc^-)^{13}$ showed a hydrophobic effect. F^- ,¹⁴ Cl⁻,¹⁴ Na⁺,^{11,14} Ca²⁺,¹² and NH_4^{+-12} act as a hydration center. Alternatively,

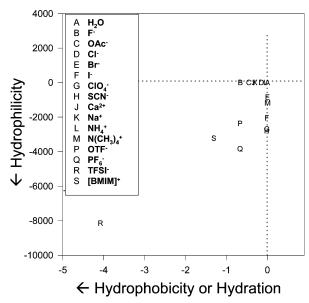


Figure 7. Relative hydrophobicity and hydrophilicity map for various ions including four IL ions. H2O (A) is at the origin. Hydrophobes and hydration centers cause the locus to shift westward from the origin, and hydrophiles southward. For hydrophobe, C: acetate (OAc⁻). For hydration center, B: F⁻, D: Cl⁻, J: Ca²⁺, K: Na⁺, L: NH₄⁺. For hydrophiles, E: Br⁻, F: I⁻, G: ClO₄⁻, H: SCN⁻, M: N(CH₃)₄⁺ (TMA⁺). For amphiphiles, P: OTF⁻, Q: PF₆⁻, R: TFSI⁻, S: [bmim]⁺.

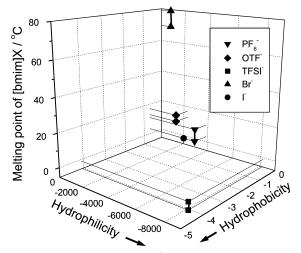


Figure 8. Melting points of [bmim]⁺ salts with IL anions against the relative anion hydrophobicity/hydrophilicity indices. The melting points are taken from ref 36 (max) and ref 37 (min) for $PF_6{}^-,\, ref$ 4 (max) and ref 36 (min) for OTF-, ref 40 (max) and ref 38 (min) for TFSI-, ref 42 (max) and ref 43 (min) for Br⁻, and ref 45 for I⁻.

 $Br^{-,14} I^{-,14} ClO_4^{-,24} SCN^{-,13}$ and $N(CH_3)_4^+ (TMA^+)^{12}$ were found hydrophilic and are placed on the ordinate because they all show no sign of hydrophobicity. It is clear that IL ions are spread out to the southwest, indicating that they are all amphiphiles with strong hydrophobic and equally strong hydrophilic moieties.

Although it is premature to generalize with a limited number of IL ions studied here, this relative hydrophobicity/hydrophilicity index may characterize ions of ionic liquids. We may be tempted to suggest that the direction (i.e., the southwest) and the distance from the origin may be an important factor for the "IL-likeness" of each ion. In this context, TFSI- is the most IL-like anion within the present study. It is known that the ionic liquids with TFSI⁻ tend to have low viscosities and low melting points. Figure 8 shows the available melting points of [bmim]⁺

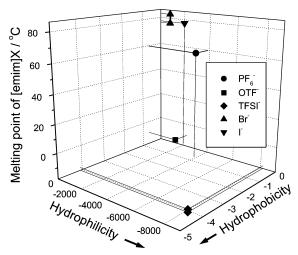


Figure 9. Melting points of [emim]+ salts with IL anions against the relative anion hydrophobicity/hydrophilicity indices. The melting points are taken from ref 46 (max) and ref 37 (min) for PF₆⁻, ref 47 for OTF⁻, ref 40 (max) and ref 41 (min) for TFSI-, ref 48 (max) and ref 44 (min) for Br-, and ref 45 for I-.

and I-45 on the relative hydrophobicity/hydrophilicity map of counter anions. Figure 9 shows the same for 1-ethyl-3methylimidazolium⁺, [emim]⁺.36,37,40-42,44,46-48 The available melting points seem to be dependent on the method and the purity of the sample. For such cases, the maximum and the minimum values available in the literature are shown in both figures. Nonetheless, both TFSI- salts show the lowest melting points in both figures, that is, the strongest "IL-likeness" within the present study. It is generally accepted that ionic liquids have low melting points because of a large polarity and nonpolarity of constituent ions and the contribution from Coulombic attraction is obscured by other effects due to polarity and nonpolarity coexisting within each ion. The present relative hydrophobicity/ hydrophilicity map may serve to quantify such effects.

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Supporting Information Available: Table SUP of the excess partial molar enthalpy of 1P, H_{1P}^{E} , in 1P-S-H₂O at 25 °C, for S = NaPF₆, NaOTF, and NaTFSI. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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