Partition of compounds from water and from air into amides

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Abstract

Literature data on partitioning of compounds from the gas phase to a number of amides and from water to the amides has been collected and analyzed through the Abraham solvation equations. The resulting equations are statistically good enough to be used for the prediction of further partition coefficients, and allow deductions to be made about the chemical properties of the amides, as solvents. For example, tertiary amides have no hydrogen bond property at all, secondary amides are rather weak hydrogen bond acids, and primary amides are stronger hydrogen bond acids than are alcohols as solvents. Equations for partitioning from the gas phase to amide solvents can also be used to test if the amides are possible models for a number of biological phases and biological processes. It is shown that no organic solvent is a suitable model for phases such as blood, brain, muscle, liver, heart or kidney, but that a number of rather non-polar solvents are models for fat. N-methylformamide is shown to be the best (and excellent) model for eye irritation and nasal pungency in humans, suggesting that the receptor site in these processes is protein-like.

Introduction

We have previously reported on the partition of compounds from water and from air into a number of solvents. The solvents can be saturated with water, that is ‘wet’ solvents, or they can be ‘dry’ solvents. In a number of cases, solvation of compounds in the dry and wet solvents is essentially the same, so that the same equations can be used to fit partition coefficients and to predict further partition coefficients into either wet or dry solvents. These solvents include hexadecane, 1,2 olive oil, 1 the lower alkanes, 2 cyclohexane, 2 chloroform, 3 dodecane, 4 undecane, 4 isopropyl myristate, 5 butane, 6, 1,2-dichloroethane, 7 and the monohalobenzenes. 8 On the other hand, there are many solvents in which solvation of compounds into the wet or dry solvents is not the same, and different equations must be used for the correlation and prediction of partition coefficients in the wet and dry solvents. These solvents include aliphatic ethers, 9, 10 alcohols, 11, 12 acetates 13 and ketones. 14 In all these solvent series, solvation into the wet and dry solvents differed considerably for the lower homologs, in which water was very soluble, but less so for the higher homologs in which water was not very soluble.
We have previously constructed equations for solvation of solutes in a few amides, using an old version of our linear free energy relationships, LFERs. However, the range of solute type was small, and the number of solutes not very large. The first aim of the present work is to set out updated equations that will be useful in the prediction of further gas to amide partition coefficients. The second aim is to compare coefficients in the equations for gas to amide partitions, and also in the (hypothetical) water to amide partitions, with corresponding equations that we have already obtained for a variety of biological phases, including blood, brain, fat, muscle, liver, lung, and skin. Since the constituents of these phases are mostly water, protein and fat, it is possible that amides, with the peptide â€”N-C(=O)- bond, could be possible models for the solution properties of some of these phases.

Methodology

The amides that we shall consider are all miscible with water, and so the prime experimental data will be partitioning from the gas phase into the dry solvents, in terms of the gas to solvent partition coefficient $K_g$, defined through eqn (1).

$$K_g = \text{concentration of solute in solution/concentration of solute in the gas phase}$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

If concentrations in the gas phase and in solution are in the same units, for example mol dm$^{-3}$, then $K_g$ has no units and is equivalent to the Ostwald absorption coefficient. Values of $K_g$ can be converted into the hypothetical water to dry solvent partition coefficient, $P_g$, through eqn (2) where $K_w$ is the air to water partition coefficient.

$$\log P_g = \log K_g - \log K_w$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

Various experimental data can be used to obtain $K_g$ values for partitioning into the dry amides. For volatile solutes $K_g$ can be determined directly. Air to solvent partition coefficients can also be obtained from the experimentally determined Henry’s Law constants and the experimentally known solute vapour pressure, and also from the solute activity coefficient at infinite dilution in the solvent, together with the solute vapour pressure. In addition, a very useful method is to use the amide solvent as the stationary phase in gas liquid chromatography. Then measurement of the volume of elution of a solute gives $K_g$ directly.

The LFERs, eqn (3) and eqn (4), are used to analyze the partition coefficients, as $\log K_g$ and $\log P_g$.

$$\log K_g = c + e E + s S + a A + b B + 1L$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

$$\log P_g = c + e E + s S + a A + b B + v V$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

The independent variables in eqn (3) and eqn (4) are solute descriptors as described before. $E$ is the solute excess molar refraction in units of (cm$^3$ mol$^{-1}$)/10, $S$ is the solute dipolarity/polarizability, $A$ and $B$ are the overall or summation solute hydrogen bond acidity and basicity, $V$ is the McGowan characteristic volume in units of (cm$^3$ mol$^{-1}$)/100, and $L$ is the logarithm of the gas to hexadecane partition coefficient at 298 K.
Results

N,N-Dimethylformamide, DMF

All data refer to dry DMF at 298K. We were able to assemble values of log $K_v$ for 171 solutes. Values were derived from Henry’s Law constants or activity coefficients $^{16-55}$ or from solubilities $^{56-68}$ as referenced in Table S1. Methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate was left out, because the solubility in DMF is very large (4.8 mol dm$^{-3}$), and 3-nitrobenzoic acid was omitted because it forms a solvate with DMF. $^{67}$ This left 169 compounds for which the log $K_v$ values together with the corresponding log $P_v$ values and descriptors are given in Table S1. Application of eqn (3) yielded the LFER, eqn (5); the term in bB was not significant and was omitted to yield eqn (6).

\[
\text{Log } K_v(\text{DMF}) = -0.391(0.045) - 0.869(0.100)E + 2.107(0.108)S + 3.774(0.146)A + 1.011(0.011)L
\]
\[
N=169, R^2=0.991, S\sigma=0.355, F=4591, Q^2=0.990, \text{PRESS}=22.275, \text{PSD}=0.368
\]

(5)

\[
\text{Log } P_v(\text{DMF}) = -0.305(0.054) - 0.058(0.102)E + 0.343(0.140)S + 0.358(0.151)A - 4.865(0.162)B + 4.486(0.040)V
\]
\[
N=169, R^2=0.989, S\sigma=0.363, F=2924, Q^2=0.988, \text{PRESS}=23.713, \text{PSD}=0.381
\]

(6)

In eqn (5) and eqn (6), $N$ is the number of data points (the number of compounds), $R$ is the correlation coefficient, $S\sigma$ is the regression standard deviation, and $F$ is the F-statistic. The leave-one-out statistics are $Q^2$, PRESS, and PSD the ‘predictive’ standard deviation, as defined previously. $^{14}$

N,N-Dimethylacetamide, DMA

For dry DMA at 298K we could collect values of log $K_v$ and log $P_v$ for 102 solutes, from primary data on the solubility of gases and vapors, $^{15, 32, 33, 34, 44, 50, 52, 69, 70, 71, 72}$ and on the solubility of solids. $^{56, 57, 59, 61, 73, 74, 75}$ Methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate was again an outlier, to leave 101 data points, as shown in Table S2. The equations for log $K_v$ (DMA) and log $P_v$ (DMA) are as follows. For the former equation, the term in bB was not significant.

\[
\text{Log } K_v(\text{DMA}) = -0.308(0.059) - 0.736(0.103)E + 1.802(0.126)S + 4.361(0.221)A + 1.028(0.010)L
\]
\[
N=101, R^2=0.992, S\sigma=0.313, F=2932, Q^2=0.990, \text{PRESS}=10.907, \text{PSD}=0.337
\]

(7)

\[
\text{Log } P_v(\text{DMA}) = -0.271(0.065) + 0.084(0.107)E + 0.209(0.155)S + 0.915(0.216)A - 5.003(0.189)B + 4.557(0.036)V
\]
\[
N=101, R^2=0.996, S\sigma=0.295, F=4323, Q^2=0.995, \text{PRESS}=9.904, \text{PSD}=0.323
\]

(8)

N-Methylpyrrolidin-2-one, NMP

Data on the solubility of gases and vapors $^{15, 32, 33, 46, 50, 55, 61, 69, 70, 76-87}$ and solids $^{73, 88}$ in NMP were available. The compounds p-toluic acid, $^{88}$ benzoic acid, $^{88}$ and methyl 4-
hydroxybenzoate \(^6\) were outliers. In the latter two cases, the solubilities in NMP are rather high, but for p-toluic acid we have no explanation. This left 118 compounds for analysis, see Table S3. In the regression for \(\log K_c\) (NMP), the term in \(bB\) was not significant and the resulting equation was:

\[
\text{Log} \ K_c(\text{NMP}) = -0.128(0.032) - 0.029(0.0065)E + 2.217(0.064)S + 4.429(0.102)A + 0.777(0.104)L \\
N=118, R^2=0.995, SD=0.161, F=5996, Q^2=0.994, \text{PRESS}=3.281, \text{PSD}=0.170
\]  

(9)

The corresponding equation for \(\log P_c\) (NMP) was:

\[
\text{Log} \ P_c(\text{NMP}) = -0.147(0.050) + 0.532(0.065)E + 0.225(0.095)S + 0.840(0.114)A - 4.794(0.122)B + 3.674(0.059)V \\
N=118, R^2=0.988, SD=0.174, F=1913, Q^2=0.987, \text{PRESS}=3.937, \text{PSD}=0.187
\]  

(10)

**N-Formylmorpholine, NFM**

Krummen and Gmehling \(^{84}\) and Weidich et al. \(^{85}\) have published GLC data on solubilities of gases in NFM at temperatures between 303 and 343K and between 313 and 373K. We have extrapolated these to 298K through plots of \(\log \gamma^\circ\) against \(1/T(\text{K})\) or plots of \(\log V^\circ\) against \(1/T(\text{K})\) for each solute and obtained values of \(\log K_c\) and \(\log P_c\) for 50 solutes. In addition, there are data for a few more gases, \(^{90, 91}\) making 55 solutes in all as given in Table S4.

Application of eqn (3) yielded eqn (11). Although the term in \(bB\) is statistically significant, it is chemically unreasonable; the tertiary amide has no hydrogen bond acidity and hence the \(bB\) should be zero (as is the case for the other tertiary amides we have studied). If the term is omitted, eqn (12) results.

\[
\text{Log} \ K_c(\text{NFM}) = -0.402(0.055) - 0.477(0.162)E + 1.817(0.240)S + 3.542(0.277)A \\
+ 0.969(0.275)B + 0.698(0.019)L \\
N=55, R^2=0.989, SD=0.119, F=893, Q^2=0.985, \text{PRESS}=0.923, \text{PSD}=0.137
\]  

(11)

\[
\text{Log} \ K_c(\text{NFM}) = -0.437(0.024) + 0.024(0.109)E + 2.631(0.071)S + 4.318(0.187)A \\
+ 0.712(0.021)L \\
N=55, R^2=0.986, SD=0.132, F=906, Q^2=0.984, \text{PRESS}=1.034, \text{PSD}=0.144
\]  

(12)

The corresponding equation for \(\log P_c\) is eqn (13)

\[
\text{Log} \ P_c(\text{NFM}) = -0.032(0.080) + 0.696(0.172)E - 0.062(0.272)S - 0.014(0.311)A \\
- 4.992(0.310)B + 3.405(0.079)V \\
N=55, R^2=0.993, SD=0.134, F=1424, Q^2=0.991, \text{PRESS}=1.155, \text{PSD}=0.153
\]  

(13)

**N,N-Diethylacetamide (DEA)**

The only data on the solubilities of gases in DEA are those of Krummen et al.\(^{92}\) who used a GLC method to determine activity coefficients of 27 solutes at temperatures between 303K...
and 333K. We have extrapolated them to 298K and then obtained the corresponding log $K_z$ (DEA) and log $P_z$ (DEA) values in Table S5. No other data on solubilities in DEA appeared to be available, and the obtained equations are as follows.

\[
\text{Log } K_z(\text{DEA}) = -0.075(0.142) - 0.434(0.161)E + 1.911(0.130)S + 4.801(0.234)A \\
+ 0.899(0.049)L \\
N=27, R^2=0.970, S D=0.107, F=177, Q^2=0.957, \text{PRESS}=0.359, \text{PSD}=0.128
\] (14)

\[
\text{Log } P_z(\text{DEA}) = 0.213(0.135) + 0.034(0.151)E + 0.089(0.149)S + 1.342(0.193)A \\
- 5.084(0.110)B + 4.088(0.131)V \\
N=27, R^2=0.998, S D=0.083, F=2113, Q^2=0.997, \text{PRESS}=0.237, \text{PSD}=0.104
\] (15)

**N,N-Dibutylformamide (DBF)**

Möllmann and Gmehling \(^2\) used a GLC method to obtain activity coefficients of 43 solutes in DBF from 303K to 333K. We extrapolated the data to 298K and obtained the corresponding log $K_z$ (DBF) and log $P_z$ (DBF) values shown in Table S6. No other data appeared to be available and the equations based on the data of Möllmann and Gmehling are as eqn (16) and eqn (17). We left out chlorobenzene, which was a considerable outlier and also water, because of the possibility of adsorption. \(^2\)

\[
\text{Log } K_z(\text{DBF}) = -0.002(0.082) - 0.239(0.086)E + 1.402(0.070)S + 4.029(0.120)A \\
+ 0.900(0.027)L \\
N=41, R^2=0.981, S D=0.086, F=468, Q^2=0.976, \text{PRESS}=0.346, \text{PSD}=0.098
\] (16)

\[
\text{Log } P_z(\text{DBF}) = 0.332(0.104) + 0.302(0.106)E - 0.436(0.105)S + 0.358(0.140)A \\
- 4.902(0.097)B + 3.952(0.103)V \\
N=41, R^2=0.997, S D=0.087, F=2256, Q^2=0.995, \text{PRESS}=0.379, \text{PSD}=0.104
\] (17)

**N-Methyl-2-piperidone, NMPip**

Gruber et al. \(^3\) obtained activity coefficients for 36 volatile solutes on N-methyl-2-piperidone by a GLC method at 303.4, 313.4 and 323.4K. We have extrapolated these to 298K and obtained the corresponding log $K_z$ (NMPip) and log $P_z$ (NMPip) values shown in Table S7. The regression equations are given as eqn (18) and eqn (19).

\[
\text{Log } K_z(\text{NMPip}) = -0.264(0.099) - 0.171(0.110)E + 2.086(0.071)S + 5.056(0.209)A \\
+ 0.883(0.036)L \\
N=36, R^2=0.982, S D=0.092, F=420, Q^2=0.980, \text{PRESS}=0.361, \text{PSD}=0.108
\] (18)
Log $P_c(NMPip)$ = 0.05660.118 + 0.332(0.130)E + 0.257(0.111)S + 1.556(0.210)A
- 5.035(0.104)B + 3.983(0.120)V

$N=36, R^2=0.997, S.D.=0.088, F=1956, Q^2=0.995, \text{PRESS}=0.344,$
PSD = 0.107 \hspace{1cm} (19)

Krummen et al. \^{94} have used the same method to obtain activity coefficients for 23 volatile solutes in the tertiary amides 1,5-dimethylpyrrolidinone and 1-ethylpyrrolidinone. Unfortunately, no hydrogen bond acids were examined, and so it is not possible to obtain the full regression equations.

**N-Methylformamide, NMF**

Activity coefficients at temperatures between 303 and 333K have been determined by Gruber et al., \^{95} using a GLC method, and we have extrapolated these to 298K and then obtained the corresponding log $K_c$ (NMF) and log $P_c$ (NMF) values for 30 solutes, as given in Table S8; there is also an additional value for 1,4-dioxane.\^{70} Bruckel and Kim \^{33} have determined the solubility of three gases in NMF, and both Smiley \^{69} and Castells et al. \^{32} have obtained activity coefficients for a number of hydrocarbons, some of which overlap with the solutes used by Gruber et al. \^{95} There is also a value for the solubility of oxygen, \^{96} in NMF.

Zielkiewicz \^{97} has determined vapor-liquid equilibria for the binary systems water-NMF, methanol-NMF, and ethanol-NMF. The corresponding activity coefficients for methanol and ethanol agree well with those of Gruber; \^{95} that for water in NMF is a new value. There are also solubility data for anthracene, \^{74} pyrene, \^{74} benzoic acid, \^{59} methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate \^{61} and 4-hydroxybenzoic acid, \^{61} and NMF itself can be included with an activity coefficient of unity. This leaves a total of 52 solutes, see Table S8. There were no outliers, and the regression equations are eqn 20 and eqn 21.

Log $K_c$ (NMF) = $-0.249(0.033) - 0.142(0.064)E + 1.661(0.090)S + 4.147(0.083)A$
+ $0.817(0.093)B + 0.739(0.013)L$

$N=52, R^2=0.998, S.D.=0.092, F=5830, Q^2=0.997, \text{PRESS}=0.676,$
PSD = 0.121 \hspace{1cm} (20)

Log $P_c$ (NMF) = $0.114(0.055) + 0.407(0.071)E - 0.287(0.109)S - 0.542(0.100)A$
- $4.085(0.112)B + 3.471(0.061)V$

$N=52, R^2=0.995, S.D.=0.111, F=1976, Q^2=0.993, \text{PRESS}=0.815,$
PSD = 0.133 \hspace{1cm} (21)

As expected for a secondary amide, the b-coefficient in eqn 20 is statistically very significant (T = 8.74, $p < 0.001$).

**N-Methylacetamide, NMA**

The main set of data is the experimental activity coefficients of Möllmann and Gmehling \^{72} for 43 compounds, obtained at 303, 318 and 333K. We have extrapolated these to 298K and calculated the corresponding log $K_c$ (NMA) and log $P_c$ (NMA) values. Smiley \^{69} has reported activity coefficients for eight hydrocarbons in NMA and again we have extrapolated these to 298K before calculating the log $K_c$ (NMA) and log $P_c$ (NMA) values. We also have a value for NMA itself taking the activity coefficient as unity. Log $K_c$ (NMA) values are available for helium, \^{98} argon, \^{99} nitrogen \^{77} and ethane, \^{100} making a total of 55 compounds (pentane was
studied twice, as listed in Table S9. There were no outliers and the equations for log $K_z$ (NMA) and log $P_z$ (NMA) are given as eqn 22 and eqn 23.

\[
\begin{align*}
\log K_z (=) & = -0.197(0.035) - 0.175(0.114)E + 1.608(0.084)S + 4.867(0.111)A \\
& + 0.375(0.100)B + 0.837(0.016)L \\
N & = 55, R^2 = 0.995, SD = 0.103, F = 1829, Q^2 = 0.993, PRESS = 0.723, \\
PSD & = 0.121
\end{align*}
\tag{22}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\log P_z (=) & = 0.090(0.061) + 0.205(0.118)E - 0.172(0.101)S + 1.305(0.132)A \\
& - 4.589(0.117)B + 3.833(0.079)V \\
N & = 55, R^2 = 0.993, SD = 0.117, F = 1337, Q^2 = 0.989, PRESS = 0.976, \\
PSD & = 0.141
\end{align*}
\tag{23}
\]

**N-Ethylformamide, NEF**

The only data available are the activity coefficients for 26 solutes obtained by Topphoff et al. Although the number of solutes is very small, it does include alcohols, and so it is possible to obtain regression equations for log $K_z$ (NEF) and log $P_z$ (NEF). The data used is in Table S10.

\[
\begin{align*}
\log K_z (=) & = -0.220(0.117) - 0.302(0.155)E + 1.743(0.131)S + 4.498(0.192)A \\
& + 0.480(0.104)B + 0.824(0.040)L \\
N & = 26, R^2 = 0.984, SD = 0.079, F = 247, Q^2 = 0.973, PRESS = 0.210, \\
PSD & = 0.102
\end{align*}
\tag{24}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\log P_z (=) & = 0.220(0.131) - 0.034(0.138)E - 0.166(0.134)S + 0.935(0.184)A \\
& - 4.589(0.098)B + 3.730(0.128)V \\
N & = 26, R^2 = 0.998, SD = 0.075, F = 2122, Q^2 = 0.997, PRESS = 0.188, \\
PSD & = 0.097
\end{align*}
\tag{25}
\]

Both equations indicate that the secondary amide is a moderate hydrogen bond acid ($B = 0.480$ in eqn 24). Although they are based on only 26 solutes, eqn 24 and eqn 25 should be capable of predicting log $K_z$ (NEF) and log $P_z$ (NEF) for further solutes to within about 0.10 log units, as indicated by the PSD values, provided that the descriptors of the solutes are within the range of those used to set up eqn 24 and eqn 25.

**N-Ethylacetamide, NEA**

The main set of activity coefficients for 27 solutes is that of Krummen et al. supplemented by the data of Smiley. A number of alcohols is included in the data set, and equations for log $K_z$ (NEA) and log $P_z$ (NEA) are as follows. The data used are in Table S11.

\[
\begin{align*}
\log K_z (=) & = -0.018(0.074) - 0.157(0.127)E + 1.352(0.190)S + 4.588(0.150)A \\
& + 0.357(0.094)B + 0.824(0.027)L \\
N & = 33, R^2 = 0.986, SD = 0.074, F = 387, Q^2 = 0.979, PRESS = 0.226, \\
PSD & = 0.091
\end{align*}
\tag{26}
\]

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Log $p_i$(NEA) = $0.284(0.091) + 0.128(0.111)E - 0.442(0.109)(S^2 + 1.180(0.145)A$
- \text{4.728(0.087)}B + 3.856(0.093)V$
N = 33, R^2 = 0.998, S_D = 0.068, F = 3324, Q^2 = 0.997, PRESS = 0.184,
PSD = 0.082

(27)

As expected, the secondary amide is a moderate hydrogen bond acid. The PSD values suggest
that predictions of log $K_i$ (NEA) and log $p_i$ (NEA) for new solutes can be made to about 0.09
log units, again provided that the descriptors for the new solutes are within the range of those
used to set up eqn 26 and eqn 27.

Formamide, F

The only primary amide for which there are enough solubility data to construct equations is
formamide. There have been a number of studies of the solubility of volatile solutes in this
solvent. Castells $^{102}$ used a GLC method to obtain retention volumes, Vg, of 22 hydrocarbons
at 298 K on a formamide stationary phase, corrected for adsorption. Bai and Li $^{103}$ used
the same method to obtain Vg values for nine solutes, again at 298 K. These Vg values are directly
related to the $K_i(F)$ values at 298 K that we require. In a much earlier publication, Novák and
Janák $^{104}$ used the GLC method to study eight homologous series of solutes, but expressed
their results as activity coefficients at 323 K. If activity coefficients at 298 K are assumed to
be the same as those at 323 K, we can calculate the corresponding $K_i(F)$ partition coefficients
at 298 K. A comparison of the log $K_i(F)$ values from the three sets of data is in Table 1. Rather
surprisingly, the log $K_i(F)$ values calculated from the 323 K activity coefficients of Novák and
Janák are very close to those obtained from the two sets of GLC experiments at 298 K. We have
therefore used the approximation that log $K_i(F)$ values at 298 K can be calculated from the 323
K activity coefficients for the remaining solutes studied by Novák and Janák. For multiple
values, we took those of Castells $^{102}$ where available, otherwise we took the average. Additional
values of log $K_i(F)$ values at 298 K have been determined by Cox et al. $^{105}$ for the solutes
acetonitrile, nitromethane and water. Details are in Table S12.

Solubilities of a number of solids in formamide have been reported and can be used to obtain
values of log $p_i(F)$ and then of log $K_i(F)$. The solids are methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate, $^{61}$
diolactone, $^{60}$ 2-hydroxybenzoic acid, $^{60}$ niflumic acid, $^{65}$ ibuprofen, $^{66}$ and piroxicam.$^{65}$
Richardson et al. $^{106}$ report the solubility of temazepam in formamide, but this was considerably
out of line and was omitted. Details of all the solutes used are in Table S12, which contains
values for 73 solutes. The equations for log $K_i(F)$ and log $p_i(F)$ are shown as eqn 28 and eqn
29.

Log $K_i(F) = -0.800(0.050) - 0.310(0.123)E + 2.292(0.132)S + 4.130(0.102)A$
+ 1.933(0.174)B + 0.442(0.018)V$
N = 73, R^2 = 0.996, S_D = 0.169, F = 3568, Q^2 = 0.995, PRESS = 2.639,
PSD = 0.198

(20)

Log $p_i(F) = -0.171(0.059) + 0.070(0.103)E + 0.308(0.129)S + 0.589(0.099)A$
- 3.152(0.166)B + 2.432(0.063)V$
N = 73, R^2 = 0.974, S_D = 0.159, F = 494, Q^2 = 0.966, PRESS = 2.175,
PSD = 0.180

(29)
Both eqn 28 and eqn 29 are statistically satisfactory. Judging from PSD, further values could be predicted to about 0.20 log units. The b-coefficient in eqn 28 is quite considerable, thus indicating that formamide as a solvent has appreciable hydrogen bond acidity.

**Discussion**

**General discussion**

The various equations for \( \log K_e \) are all statistically reasonable, and can be used to predict further values for solutes for which the required descriptors are available. There is almost nothing with which to compare these equations. Li et al.\(^{107}\) have calculated Gibbs energies of solvation (equivalent to \( \log K_e \)) for solutes in a very large number of solvents and have compared calculated values with experimental ones. The solvents included DMF, DMA and NMA, but only five solutes were studied in each case.

It is important to note that predictions of further values should only be made for solutes with values of descriptors within (or possibly just outside) the descriptor space used to set up the equations. In the Supplementary material, we give the minimum and maximum values of the descriptors for each amide solvent. The minimum values are not so critical (the minimum values of \( A \) and \( B \) are always zero), and the maximum values are collected in Table 2. In order to ascertain the effect of predictions outside the correct descriptor space, we repeated the equation for \( \log K_e \) (NMA), eqn 22 with 55 solutes, using only the 27 solutes that were used in the equation for DEA and then predicted values of \( \log K_e \) (NMA) for the remaining 28 solutes. We found SD = 0.145 log units between observed and predicted values, as compared to PSD = 0.121 log units in eqn 22. Hence extrapolation some way outside the original data space (compare DEA and NMA in Table 2) still leads to reasonable predictions. However, when we repeated this, using the 27 solutes in the DEA equation to obtain an equation for \( \log K_e \) (DMA), and then using the equation to predict values for \( \log K_e \) (DMA) for the remaining 74 solutes; we obtained SD = 1.06 log units. Thus extrapolation well outside the original descriptor space (compare DEA and DMA in Table 2) will result in very poor predictions.

One important use of amide solvents is in the selective solution of aromatic compounds over aliphatic compounds in processes such as gas stripping. We can use the various equations in \( \log K_e \) to predict values for typical aromatic and aliphatic solutes, and hence to predict selective solution of aromatic compounds. Results are in Table 3 for a tertiary amide (DMF), a secondary amide (NMF) and a primary amide (formamide), together with a number of other well-known solvents. We chose acetophenone and 4-methylcyclohexanone and phenol and cyclohexanol as two pairs of aromatic/aliphatic solutes. Results in Table 3 are not entirely as expected. Dimethylsulfoxide, DMSO, is more selective than the amides, and for the pair of solutes acetophenone/4-methylcyclohexanone only formamide is much more selective than the aliphatic solvent, butanone. For the other pair, DMSO is again the most selective solvent, but all the amides are more selective towards phenol than are the aliphatic solvents. A similar analysis can be carried out for almost any pair of solutes used in chemical engineering processes, for a large number of solvents.

It is of some interest to compare the coefficients of the various equations with those for other solvents. Some values are in Table 4. The amide solvents are all strong hydrogen bond bases, with \( a \)-coefficients from 3.77 to 4.15, bested only by ethylene glycol and DMSO. The secondary amide, NMF, is a rather weak hydrogen bond acid with a \( b \)-coefficient of 0.817, but formamide itself is a substantial hydrogen bond acid, stronger than methanol. The \( l \)-coefficient is interesting, in that it seems to be related to the lipophilicity of the solvent. Many organic solvents have \( l \)-coefficients in the range 0.90 – 1.00, as does DMF itself. A few solvents have lower \( l \)-coefficients, especially ethylene glycol (\( l = 0.558 \)) and now formamide with the smallest \( l \)-coefficient yet observed for an organic solvent.
Comparison with biological phases

Over the last few years, we have set out equations for the partition of solutes from the gas phase into a variety of biological phases, and it is of considerable interest to compare these equations with those for partition into organic solvents. In the early part of the 20th century, olive oil \(^{108, 109}\) and then oleyl alcohol \(^{110}\) were used as model solvents for biological processes and biological phases. Much later, Hansch and Fujita \(^{111}\) suggested octanol (or rather wet octanol) as a more suitable model solvent, and this has remained the solvent of choice. However, it is unrealistic to expect that any given solvent would be a suitable model for biological phases as different as fat, muscle and blood. Compositions as wt\% water, protein and lipid are in Table 5. \(^{112}\)

Over the last few years, we have set out equations based on eqn 3 for the gas to biological phase partition coefficients of solutes in a variety of biological phases, including blood, \(^{113}\) muscle, \(^{114}\) brain, \(^{115}\) lung, \(^{116}\) kidney, \(^{117}\) heart, \(^{117}\) liver \(^{118}\) and fat \(^{119}\) at 310 K. Having the coefficients in eqn 3 available for the biological phases, we can now compare these coefficients with those for various solvents, including olive oil \(^{120}\) as well as the amide solvents studied in this work.

We have also examined the effect of volatile solutes on nasal pungency thresholds (NPT), eye irritation thresholds (EIT) and odor detection thresholds (ODT) in humans, and have obtained equations based on eqn 3 for log(1/NPT), \(^{121}\) log(1/EIT) \(^{122}\) and log (1/ODT). \(^{123}\) Coefficients for the most up-to-date data \(^{122}\) are given in Table 6. In addition, we have obtained \(^{124}\) an equation for inhalation anesthesia on rats for log(1/MAC) where MAC is the minimum alveolar concentration of an inhaled anesthetic that prevents movement in 50\% of rats; coefficients are in Table 6.

It is not very easy to judge which of the sets of coefficients in Table 6 are near to each other, but a simple visualization can be achieved using principal components analysis (PCA) of the five coefficients e, s, a, b, and l. The relevant five columns of data in Table 6 are transformed into five principal components that are mutually orthogonal. The scores for the first two PCs contain (in the present case) 84\% of the total information, and so a simple two-dimensional plot of PC2 against PC1 will give a reasonable indication of which processes are chemically similar, in terms of the coefficients in the appropriate equations. Such a plot is shown in Figure 1.

It is clear that except for fat, there is little correspondence between the biological phases and the various solvents; wet butanol (No 20) is quite close to blood (No 1) but that is all. No doubt the large amount of water in these biological phases precludes the dry organic solvents as suitable models. It is no coincidence that wet butanol contains more water than the other wet solvents. For fat, the rather non-polar solvents olive oil and chloroform are suitable models, and no doubt other non-polar solvents will also be suitable models. Since fat is 80\% lipid, this is not surprising.

In contrast, there are a number of suitable model solvents for eye irritation, nasal pungency and inhalation anesthesia, especially N-methylformamide (No 14) and methanol (No 18). The closeness of methanol as a model solvent for inhalation anesthesia has already been noticed. \(^{124}\) However, NMF is a much more reasonable model for processes in which the main step is transfer from the gas phase to a receptor site/area that probably consists of proteins, as is likely the case for nasal pungency \(^{121}\) and eye irritation \(^{122}\). In fact, various studies have shown that many chemicals produce chemical sensory irritation (i.e., chemesthesis) via activation of proteins from various subfamilies of transient receptor potential (TRP) ion channels. \(^{125-129}\)

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The PCA method provides a useful visual method of comparing coefficients, but there are two rigorous methods that yield exact comparisons for the assessment of the closeness of equations based on eqn 3. In the procedure of Ishihama and Asakawa the five coefficients, e to l, define a line in five dimensional space. Then for two equations, the angle between the two lines, \( \theta \), yields information as to how close the equations are in a correlation sense. As \( \theta \) approaches zero, and \( \cos \theta \) approaches unity, the two lines coincide and the correlation between the two sets of properties approaches unity. In the method of Abraham and Martins the five coefficients, e to l, define a point in five dimensional space, and for two equations the distance between the points, \( D' \), now yields information on how close the equations are in a chemical sense. The PCA analysis, above, is a two-dimensional visual approximation of this method. In both analyses, one particular equation, or set of coefficients, is taken as the standard. We shall take the set of coefficients for nasal pungency thresholds as the standard, with \( \cos \theta = 1 \), and \( D' = 0 \).

Results of the analysis of Abraham and Martins and of Ishihama and Asakawa are in Table 7, with respect to nasal pungency thresholds. The \( D' \) parameter shows how close systems are to NPT in chemical terms, and yields accurate values for what the PCA graph expresses approximately. Abraham and Martins suggested that for a good chemical model, \( D' \) should be less than about 0.5 to 0.8 units. On this basis, the “nearest” systems are NMF (No 14, \( D' = 0.597 \)), eye irritation thresholds (No 10, \( D' = 0.616 \)) and inhalation anesthesia (No 12, \( D' = 0.702 \)). The nearest systems on a correlative basis are again NMF (No 14, \( \cos \theta = 0.996 \)), eye irritation thresholds (No 10, \( \cos \theta = 0.993 \)) and inhalation anesthesia (No 12, \( \cos \theta = 0.986 \)). Although \( \cos \theta \) refers to the correlation between values for two systems, there is no exact connection between \( \cos \theta \) and the correlation coefficient or \( R^2 \). From previous work we estimate that if \( \cos \theta = 0.990 \) then a maximum expected value of \( R^2 \) is 0.95 and if \( \cos \theta = 0.975 \) then a maximum expected value of \( R^2 \) is 0.90. Note that only expected maximum values can be estimated, because the method does not take into account the errors in the data. Thus, in practical terms, the correlation observed will always be less than the expected maximum. However, there should still be a good correlation between values of \( \log (1/NPT) \) and \( \log K \) (NMF) since \( \cos \theta = 0.996 \) for NMF (No 14). Eye irritation and inhalation anesthesia are also good correlative models. Thus both in chemical terms and as regards correlation, we can deduce that NMF is an excellent model for nasal pungency thresholds. As noted, this agrees with the proteinaceous nature of chemesthetic TRP ion channels.

Unlike the PCA analysis, where distances between any two points can visually be estimated, the two exact analyses have to be recalculated when another system is taken as the reference. If we use eye irritation thresholds as the reference, then NMF, nasal pungency thresholds and inhalation anesthesia again emerge as the “nearest” systems, with \( D' = 0.617 \) and \( \cos \theta = 0.991 \) for NMF, \( D' = 0.616 \) and \( \cos \theta = 0.993 \) for NPT, and \( D' = 0.559 \) and \( \cos \theta = 0.993 \) for inhalation anesthesia. Hence we conclude that N-methylformamide should be a good model solvent for eye irritation thresholds, although not as good a model as for nasal pungency thresholds (\( D' = 0.597 \) and \( \cos \theta = 0.996 \)).

There are very few solutes that are in each of the NPT and the NMF datasets, and so we have checked our prediction by using eqn 20 to calculate values of \( \log K \) (NMF) and then regressing the experimental values of \( \log (1/NPT) \) against the calculated values of \( \log K \) (NMF). For comparison we give the full equation (data from ref 121) for \( \log (1/NPT) \) as eqn 30.

\[
\log(1/NPT) = -7.815(0.374) - 0.014(0.346)E + 1.760(0.385)S + 3.581(0.280)A + 0.750(0.426)B + 0.808(0.053)L \\
N=48, R^2=0.877, SD=0.359, F=60.0, Q^2=0.825, PRESS=7.701, PSD=0.428
\] (30)
\[
\log(1/NPT) = -7.176(0.250) + 0.952(0.060) \log K_s (\text{NMF, calc}) \\
N = 48, R^2 = 0.846, S_D = 0.384, F = 252.3, Q^2 = 0.832, PRESS = 7.385, \\
PSD = 0.401
\]  
(31)

The correlation of \( \log (1/NPT) \) against the calculated values of \( \log K_s \) (NMF), eqn 31, is statistically about as good as eqn 30, thus showing that, as we predicted, NMF is an excellent model for the nasal pungency biological process. NMF is not quite such a good model for inhalation anesthesia, with \( D' = 0.827 \) and \( \cos \theta = 0.986 \); compare methanol with \( D' = 0.448 \) and \( \cos \theta = 0.994 \).

Our prediction that NMF will be a good model for eye irritation thresholds, although not as good a model as for nasal pungency thresholds is substantiated through eqn 32, obtained in the same manner as eqn 31.

\[
\log(1/EIT) = -7.102(0.463) + 0.955(0.107) \log K_s (\text{NMF, calc}) \\
N = 23, R^2 = 0.790, S_D = 0.512, F = 79.0, Q^2 = 0.743, PRESS = 6.74278, \\
PSD = 0.567
\]  
(32)

It is of some interest that wet octanol (No 22) appears to be a poor model for all the biological phases and processes that we have considered. This does not preclude \( \log P(\text{wet octanol}) \) being used as a descriptor in a multiple descriptor analysis of biological phases and processes, but our analysis shows that it cannot be taken for granted that wet octanol is a good model (or even the best model) for any particular biological phase or process.

**Conclusion**

We have set out equations for the solubility of gases and vapors in a variety of tertiary, secondary and primary amides. These equations are statistically good enough to use to predict further values of the gas to amide partition coefficients at 298K. The equations contain valuable data on the chemical properties of the amides as solvents, and can be used to predict separation factors for mixtures of solutes. A detailed investigation of organic solvents as possible models for biological phases and biological processes reveals that no pure organic solvent can be used as a model for the solubility of gases and vapors in a variety of biological phases. However, N-methylformamide is revealed as an excellent model for nasal pungency thresholds and eye irritation thresholds in humans, and suggests that the receptor site must be protein-like in character.

**Supplementary Material**

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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74. Acree WE Jr. unpublished work.
79. SDP ammonia
86. de Oliveira JV, Uller AMC. Fluid Phase Equilib 1996;118:133–141.


Fig. 1.
A plot of the scores of PC2 against PC1 for the systems in Table 6: filled circles represent the biological phases Nos 1–8, squares represent the biological processes Nos 9–12, circles represent the solvents Nos 13–27.
Table 1
Calculation of gas to formamide partition coefficients, log $K_a(F)$, at 298K.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solute</th>
<th>Log $K_a(F)$ calculated from</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at 323 K</td>
<td>Vg at 298 K</td>
<td>Vg at 298 K</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hexane</td>
<td>Ref 104</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heptane</td>
<td>Ref 102</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Octane</td>
<td>Ref 103</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonane</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benzene</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.02</td>
<td>1.97</td>
<td>1.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toluene</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethylbenzene</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.45</td>
<td>2.39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propylbenzene</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.66</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclohexane</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methylcyclohexane</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethylcyclohexane</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propyne</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2

Maximum values of the descriptors used in equations 5 to 29, and the number of solutes in the equations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amide</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>L</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DMF</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>2.81</td>
<td>2.71</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>4.0538</td>
<td>13,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMA</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>2.81</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>4.0538</td>
<td>13,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMP</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>2.29</td>
<td>1.86</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>1.5176</td>
<td>8,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFM</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>1.5176</td>
<td>4,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIA</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>1.2358</td>
<td>3,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBF</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>1.1536</td>
<td>5,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMPip</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>1.2358</td>
<td>3,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMP</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>2.81</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>1.5846</td>
<td>8,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMA</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>1.1536</td>
<td>3,778</td>
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<td>NEIF</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>1.2358</td>
<td>3,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEA</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>1.2358</td>
<td>3,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td>2.71</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>2.2500</td>
<td>12,210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3

Selectivity of solvents: calculated values of $\log K_a$(aromatic solute) - $\log K_a$(aliphatic solute)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>Acetophenone/4 methylcyclohexanone</th>
<th>Phenol/cyclohexanol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formamide</td>
<td>0.566</td>
<td>1.547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMF</td>
<td>0.443</td>
<td>1.478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMF</td>
<td>0.353</td>
<td>1.503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butanone</td>
<td>0.422</td>
<td>1.234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMSO</td>
<td>0.840</td>
<td>2.568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethylene glycol</td>
<td>0.392</td>
<td>1.203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Octanol</td>
<td>0.300</td>
<td>0.945</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 4

**Coefficients in equations for log $K_w$**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>solvent</th>
<th>c</th>
<th>e</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>b</th>
<th>L</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DMF</td>
<td>-0.391</td>
<td>-0.869</td>
<td>2.107</td>
<td>3.774</td>
<td>0.020</td>
<td>1.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMF</td>
<td>-0.249</td>
<td>-0.142</td>
<td>1.661</td>
<td>4.147</td>
<td>0.817</td>
<td>0.739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formamide</td>
<td>-0.800</td>
<td>0.310</td>
<td>2.292</td>
<td>4.130</td>
<td>1.933</td>
<td>0.442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>-1.271</td>
<td>0.822</td>
<td>2.743</td>
<td>3.964</td>
<td>4.814</td>
<td>-0.213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methanol</td>
<td>-0.004</td>
<td>-0.215</td>
<td>1.173</td>
<td>3.701</td>
<td>1.432</td>
<td>0.769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethylene glycol</td>
<td>-0.876</td>
<td>0.278</td>
<td>1.431</td>
<td>4.584</td>
<td>2.525</td>
<td>0.588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMSO</td>
<td>-0.619</td>
<td>0.131</td>
<td>2.811</td>
<td>5.474</td>
<td>0.030</td>
<td>0.734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butanol</td>
<td>0.112</td>
<td>-0.474</td>
<td>1.671</td>
<td>2.878</td>
<td>0.020</td>
<td>0.916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethyl ether</td>
<td>0.206</td>
<td>-0.169</td>
<td>0.873</td>
<td>3.402</td>
<td>0.020</td>
<td>0.882</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chloroform</td>
<td>0.168</td>
<td>-0.595</td>
<td>1.256</td>
<td>0.280</td>
<td>1.370</td>
<td>0.981</td>
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</table>
Table 5

Composition of biological phases, as wt%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Protein</th>
<th>Lipid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blood</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brain</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Table 6
A comparison of coefficients for solubility of gases and vapors in biological phases, and coefficients for biological activity, with coefficients for solubility in organic solvents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solvent phase</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>c</th>
<th>e</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>l</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blood</td>
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<td>a</td>
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<td>l</td>
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The results for the biological phase and biological activity are at 37°C, and those for solubility in organic solvents are at 25°C.
Table 7

A comparison of phases in terms of the parameters $D'$ and $\cos \theta$, with respect to nasal pungency thresholds

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Solvent phase</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>$D'$</th>
<th>$\cos \theta$</th>
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<tr>
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