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A study of the effect of a dielectric field on the solvolysis rate of tert-butyl bromide in a recycle reactor

Rolf L. Ball New Jersey Institute of Technology

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A STUDY OF THE EFFECT OF A DIELECTRIC

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FIELD ON THE SOLVOLYSIS RATE OF

TERT-BUTYL BROMIDE IN A RECYCLE REACTOR

BY

ROLF L. BALL B.S. (CH.E.)

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

A THESIS

PRESENTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF

THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE

OF

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

AT

NEWARK COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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> Newark, New Jersey 1972

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FACULTY COMMITTEE

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Newark, New Jersey

April 1972

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this thesis wishes to thank his advisor, Dr. John E. McCormick, for his assistance during the course of this research. The author also wishes to thank those professors from the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Departments, whose advice and assistance helped bring this thesis to a successful conclusion.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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ABSTRACT

Previous experiments at Newark College of Engineering have shown that a dielectric field can effect the rate of a chemical reaction. A theory was developed in this thesis to postulate how a dielectric field can increase the rate of a first order reaction whose rate determining step is an ionization. An experimental procedure was developed to measure the reaction rate constant of a tertiary alkyl halide with a solvent to test this theory. The solvolysis of tertbutyl bromide in aqueous ethanol (80%), aqueous dioxane (75%) and aqueous acetone (75%) solvent systems were the reactions selected for study. A total of 17 runs were carried out in a recycle reactor. A small increase was found in the reaction rate constant upon the application of the dielectric field using the aqueous ethanol (80%) solvent system. Small decreases in the reaction rate constants upon the application of the field were found using the other two solvent systems. All changes were too small to say with certainty that the dielectric field had any effect upon the reaction rate constants. Further experiments at higher field strengths are necessary to supplement the result of this thesis.

INTRODUCTION

Experiments carried out at Newark College of Engineering during the⁺ **Spring Semester** in 1.971 **have shown that** a dielectric field applied across the full length of a plug flow reactor has influenced the **rate of the reactien** taking **place within the reactor(1)** The reaction **studied was the saponification of ethyl acetate.** The **results of that investigation will be** briefly discussed **here as** the topic of **this master's thesis is** a sequel to those **experiments.** The **results of** the experiments **have** shown that the dielectric field slowed the rate of reaction to a significant extent. It further demonstrated that the effect of the field on the reaction rate was more pronounced at **lower** Reynolds numbers and that the more intense the field, the more the rate of reaction was slowed. A hypothesis was developed to explain these observations.

The saponification of ethyl acetate with sodium hydroxide is a second order nucleophilic substitution reaction. The sodium hydroxide is first ionized and the nucleophilic hydroxide ion attacks the partially positively charged carbonyl carbon of the ester group $(1,2)$. The rate of reaction is proportional to the concentrations of both the base and **the ester** substrate.

The theory postulated for the decrease in reaction rate is that a degree of physical separation is obtained between the positive

 -1 -

INTRODUCTION (continued)

carbonyl ion and the negative hydroxide ions when the dielectric field is applied. Turbulence will mix the ions, thus the theory is further plausible because the effect of the field is the strongest at low Reynolds numbers where turbulence is least. The overall affect of applying the dielectric field is a segregation of ions slowing down their probability of collision with each other and hence decelerating their rate of reaction. This theory, however, is not correct as the ester does not ionize before reacting with the hydroxide ions. Having thus established experimentally that the application of a dielectric field can have an affect on the rate of a reaction by a mechanism which has not been correctly postulated, the task was now to find a reaction that would be accelerated rather than slowed by the application of the same dielectric field. The aim of this thesis has been to develop a theory on how a dielectric field can accelerate the rate of a reaction and to test that theory by experiment. A large group of unimolecular nucleophilic substitution reactions have an ionization step which is rate determining. The rate of reaction should hence be increased if the rate of ionization could be accelerated. A theory will now be developed to explain how the solvolysis rate of a tertiary alkyl halide should be increased by the application of a dielectric field.

INTRODUCTION (continued)

For a given halogen atom the order of reactivity of the alkyl halide is tertiary secondary primary. This may be explained as follows (11) . In the above-mentioned soivolysis reaction the covalentiy bound halogen atom is converted into a halogen ion as the first step of the overall reaction. It is, therefore, logical to suppose that, in the structure of the tertiary alkyl halide, any force which tends to increase the polarity of the carbon-halogen bond will actually weaken this bond. Furthermore, all experimental and theoretical work has shown that as the polarity of a bond increases, its length will also increase with a consequent decrease in strength. Therefore, the more ionic the character of the bond, the weaker the bond and the greater the reactivity of the halide atom.

Since alkyl groups are electron repelling or electron releasing, the more alkyl groups attached to the carbon atom of the carbon-halogen bond, the greater is the electron density on this carbon atom, and the greater is the repulsion of the electron pair towards the halogen atom of carbon-halogen bond. Any external force that can simulate this electron repelling effect of the carbon atom or increase the electron attracting effect of the halogen atom should increase the rate of ionization of the alkyl halide molecule by converting the halogen atom into a halogen ion.

The application of a dielectric field will cause the dipolar molecule to be oriented with their dipoles parallel to the direction of the

INTRODUCTION (continued)

field. Turbulence in the reaction tube will reduce this tendency so reactions were carried out in the laminar flow range. If the dielectric field is strong enough additional ionization should occur as the electrons are physically pulled towards the halogen atom of the molecule which is pointing towards the positive pole of the dielectric field. This will increase the electronegativity of the halogen atom and increase the positive charge on the central carbon atom. The application of the dielectric field, therefore, facilitates charge separation in the tert-alkyl halide molecule and induces additional polarization. The dielectric field, therefore, changes the average electron distribution in comparison with that of an identical molecule not subjected to the dielectric field. This means that polarization deforms both bonding and non-bonding electron clouds substantially. As the cleavage of the bonding electron clouds determines the rate of a reaction, a deformation of these clouds to weaken the bond will increase ionization and the rate of that reaction. The task set in this thesis is to prove that the application of a dielectric field across a plug flow reactor will increase the rate of a unimolecular nucleophilic substitution reaction, whose rate determining step is the ionization of the starting material. This reaction has a tertiary alkyl halide as its starting material.

SELECTION OF REACTION SYSTEM

Having decided to use a unimolecular nucleophilic substitution reaction, the next step was the selection of a particular system. In order **to** have a **large excess** of the **other reactant or** reactants, a solvolysis reaction was used. In this system one or more of the reactants also acts as the **solvent** and is **present in** a large excess. Solvolysis reactions of the above type **are also very numerous so** it was decided to use a system which is well known, has reasonable reaction **times,** does not cost too much per **run,** and is readily available. For these reasons **the** solvolysis of tert-butyl bromide in aqueous ethanol (80%), aqueous dioxane (75%), and aqueous acetone **(75%) solvent systems was selected for study. The percentage figures are on a volume** basis and the percentage refers to the non-aqueous component in each of the three systems. Furthermore, the reaction rate constant for the solvolysis of tert-butyl bromide in aqueous ethanol (80%) at 25°C is accurately known⁽⁷⁾ and will be used to determine the accuracy of the experimental procedure. The solvolysis of tert-butyl bromide is a first order reaction with the ionization step being rate controlling^(3,4). This $S_N^{\text{}}1$ mechanism consists of three steps: (1) a reversible ionization step; (2) a reversal of step 1; and (3) the reaction of the carbonium ion with a nucleophilic solvent molecule.

- 5 -

SELECTION OF REACTION SYSTEM (continued)

Where: $R-X = \text{tert-hutyl bromide}$ R^+ = Carbonium ion $X^{\text{-}}$ = Bromide ion $B:$ = the solvent molecule

The application of the dielectric field should have a double effect on the overall reaction. It should speed up the ionization in step 1 and slow down the rate of step 2 by hindering the recombination of the R^+ and X^- ions to reform the tert-butyl bromide molecule. Step 3 will not be accelerated but also not hindered by the application of the field. Although the carbonium ions will tend to migrate towards the negative plate of the dielectric field, they will be surrounded everywhere in the solvent by a large excess of nucleophilic solvent molecules, whether there is a dielectric field or not. The reaction will be carried out at all times in the region of laminar flow to keep mixing to an absolute minimum.

A great advantage in studying the solvolysis reaction chosen is the ease with which the disappearance of the tert-butyl bromide can be followed. The amount of bromide ion liberated is directly proportional to the amount of tert-butyl bromide reacted. The amount of bromide ion liberated can be titrated directly against a dilute

SELECTION OF REACTION SYSTEM (continued)

sodium hydroxide solution. The method is accurate because of the low concentration of bromide ion in the reaction system. At this concentration and temperature the vapor pressure of the bromide in solution is so low that essentially no bromide escapes from the reaction mass⁽⁵⁾.

The reaction is irreversible and may be presented as follows for kinetic purposes:

$$
R-X \longrightarrow X^{T} + \text{Products}
$$

Where: $R-X = \text{ter t}-\text{butyl bromide}$
 $X^- = \text{bromide ions}$ = bromide ions Products= depends on solvent

and the reaction rate is given by (6) :

Rate = $-\frac{d [RX]}{dt} = \frac{d [X^+]}{dt} = K [R\overline{X}]$

• where: $\begin{bmatrix} R\bar{X} \end{bmatrix}$ = Concentration of tert-butyl bromide
 $\begin{bmatrix} X \end{bmatrix}$ = Concentration of bromide ions $[X^{\dagger}]$ = Concentration of bromide ions
 K = Reaction rate constant $=$ Reaction rate constant

The effect of the dielectric field on the reaction will be found by running the reaction under exactly the same conditions except for the presence of the field for each of the three solvent systems. The reaction rate constant is then found graphically, the actual slope being found by the least squares method.

SECTION 4-

EXPERIMENTAL APPARATUS

The investigations of the effect of the dielectric field on the saponification of ethyl acetate were carried out in a "once through" plug flow reactor⁽¹⁾. This gives very low residence times resulting in low conversions. A small portion of total reaction could only be followed and different residence times were obtained by running at different flow rates. For the solvolysis of tort-butyl bromide a residence time of at least 90 minutes was required to follow about 90% of the total reaction⁽⁷⁾. For this reason the "once through" plug flow reactor was converted into a recycle reactor.

A recycle reactor behaves kinetically like a batch reactor and the reaction rate constant can be very easily found⁽⁶⁾. The system will also behave as a constant volume batch reactor if the samples, removed during the course of the reaction, are small compared to the total volume of the reactor. The recycle reactor system has the advantage of having the tubular reactor, with the possibility of applying the dielectric field, and being a batch reactor allowing for any desired residence time. Sampling was carried out in all runs for about 90% of the total conversion, making it possible for a complete picture of the reaction to be obtained.

When the dielectric field is applied to the tubular part of the reaction system it behaves like two batch reactors in series. An

$-8 -$

EXPERIMENTAL APPARATUS (continued)

adjustment has to be made that part of the reaction taking place outside the influence of the dielectric field. A new titration reading is calculated to simulate a recycle reactor completely under the influence of the diclectric field.

The.main componeats of the experimental apparatus making up the reaction system are: (1) a $3/4$ " I.D. glass tube covered for $53\frac{1}{2}$ " by thin copper plating, heavily insulated; (2) a 0.10 H.P. pump with a penton impeller housing; (3) a glass condenser acting as a cooler; and (4) a high voltage generator. There are two calibrated thermometers in the system, one being just before and one just after the 3/4" I.D. glass tubing. All tubing connecting the major piece of apparatus are k" O.D. glass. The reactants are charged and samples are taken from a small sampling well on the suction side of the pump. (See sketch of apparatus for details.)

The rate controlling ionization step is a heterolysis of the carbonhalogen bond. Since a covalent bond is being broken the reaction is endothermic⁽⁸⁾. The heat being removed from the system by the cooler, therefore, comes from the pump. This enters the reaction system at a steady rate and temperature control to within $1^{\circ}C$ of the desired temperature is possible with experience. The flow within the system is kept in the laminar range (Reynolds Number approximately 500) by means of a pinch cock close to the pump in the discharge tube. The setting was kept constant throughout the runs insuring a consistent flow rate.

 $-9 -$

EXPERIMENTAL APPARATUS(continued)

There is a serious limitation in this reaction system as far as the application of the dielectric field is **concerned.** Arcing **occurs between edges of the plates when a dielectric field above 9.0 kilovolts is applied. This** is because **there is** only a 0.45" gap between **the edges of the plates. Increasing the distance between** the plates **would mean decreasing** the **effective area of** the plates. All runs were carried out **at** a 8.0 kilovolts **potential difference. Even** at this **reading the** insulation **between** the edges of the plates would break down **with time** and **the strength** of the field decayed. The insulation had to be changed several times during the course of the runs. As the tube is heavily insulated to prevent annidental dis**charge this** was a painstaking operation.

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 $-11 -$

EXPERIMENTAL FROCEDURE

The disappearance of the tert-butyl bromide during the course of the reaction is best determined by measuring the rate of formation of the bromide ions. The bromide ions are present in a very low concentration but can be accurately measured by titration against a dilute sodium hydroxide solution. The titration is carried out in methanol or ethanol with phenolphthalein as indicator and gives a distinct end point⁽⁹⁾. The titration is completely quantitative as the moles of bromide ion determined by titration in the "time infinity" sample were found equal, within the limits of experimental error, to the moles of tert-butyl bromide weighed out. The reaction goes to completion at a 100% conversion of ter-butyl bromide when a large excess of the other reactants is present such as in a solvolysis reaction. Titration is carried out by means of a 10 ml micro-burette which allows titration values to be read accurately to two decimal places. A predetermined blank is subtracted from each titration reading. The experimental procedure consists of making up as accurately as possible a 0.1M solution of tert-butyl bromide in either aqueous ethanol (80%), aqueous dioxide (75%), or in aqueous acetone (75%). The remainder of the procedure is the same for whatever solvent system is used. The solution is well mixed and charged to the reaction system through the charge funnel as rapidly as possible. The recycle pump is turned on as soon as charging begins. The temperature is adjusted $-12 -$

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE(continued)

to 25^oC by adjusting the cooling water flow to the cooler and kept as close as possible to 25° C throughout the reaction. Samples are taken at regular time intervals with a 1 ml syringe through the sampling well. The sample solution is immediately quenched into a preweighed quantity of pure methanol. This quenching action slows the reaction **r**ate by about a factor of 10 . $\binom{10}{10}$

The quench solution is weighed at once so that the weight of the sample is obtained hefore titration. Titration is carried out immediately after weighing against a 0.0206 N solution of sodium hydroxide. The total time from removal of sample till the end of titration takes about two minutes. Allowing for the factor of 10,the actual time elapsed till titration is about 12 seconds, a time too small to effect the accuracy of the readings. The titration readings increase from about 1 ml after 10 minutes to 4.5 ml when about 90% of the reaction is completed and the run is stopped. The "time infinity" sample is found by letting a portion of the reaction mass stand overnight and carrying out the titration on the next day. Since the moles of tertbutyl bromide reacted are inversely proportional to the amount of bromide ion formed and therefore to the titration readings, the progress of the reaction is followed from the titration readings. The reaction being of the first order, the reaction rate constant can be easily found graphically.⁽⁶⁾ The tables and the graphs in the appendix give details of procedure.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE (continued)

A slight difficulty arises in determining the reaction rate constant when the dielectric field is applied to the $3/4$ " glass tube, which **is** only **part** of the total reaction system. **The** titration reading must be adjusted **to take** into account **the part of the reading which is** due to the bromide ion formed by the reaction outside the influence of the dielectric **field.** This is done by simulating **the system to be two constant** volume batch reactors in series. The average titration readings for each solvent system were plotted separately. This made it possible to obtain the average incremental titration **reading for** each time segment **(see** graphs 18-20), **The** time the reaction **takes** place away from and under the influence of the dielectric field is found by taking the volumes of the two simulated reactors. **The** volume of the reactor under the influence of the dielectric field stays at **371** ml while the other reactor outside the field is approximately 570 ml depending on just how full the reactor **has** been filled. The volume of the reaction system varied from 562 ml to 572 ml throughout runs 1 to 17.

Approximately two-thirds of the reaction takes place in the dielectric field and one-third outside it. The following equation was developed for adjusting the titration reading to give an equivalent reading for the whole reaction system under the influence of the dielectric field.

Tn+1(ad) = Tn(ad) + $\frac{(Tn+1-Tn)Act - F(Tn+1-Tn)Av\dot{e}}{(1 - F)}$ and $F = 1 - \frac{371}{V}$

 $-13 -$

 $\frac{1}{2}$

 $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$

 $\bar{\theta}$

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE (continued)

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 $\hat{\mathcal{S}}$

 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\right)^2$

 \bar{z}

 \bar{z}

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A total of seventeen recorded runs were carried out. The details of each are presented in tabular form in the appendix. Table A gives a complece summary of the reaction rate constants. Nine runs were carried out using the aqueous ethanol (80%) system, four runs using the aqueous dioxane (75%) system, and four runs using the aqueous acetone (75%) system. All values of the reaction rate constant weic close to each other within a particular solvent system. Each individual run gave points on a graph which made a good straight line. There were very few points which were far off the best straight line. Since it is known that the reaction is of the first order, the reaction system behaved as a constant volume batch reactor because it gave points which made a straight line. It showed that the analytical procedure is applicable and accurate $^{(6)}$ because it gives reaction rate constants very close to the literature value. The following is a summary of the runs.

<u>Run $\#1$ </u>: This gave a reaction rate constant of 65.7 x 10^{-5} sec. $^{-1}.$ This is much too high as the reaction rate constant for aqueous ethanol (80%) solvent system is given as 37.9 x 10^{-5} sec.⁻¹ in the literature⁽⁷⁾. The reaction system was physically not in its final form for $#1$. The temperature was only measured at one point in the reaction system. As can be seen from Table $#1$ the temperature was high during most of the earlier part of this run.

$-15 -$

TABLE A

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REACTION RATE CONSTANTS (K)

 $\hat{\mathcal{A}}$

NOTE: The percentages are on a volume basis and refer the non-aqueous component of the solvent system.

- **Run #2: The experimental equipment was improved for run #2 but still only one thermometer was installed in the system. Temperature control was better but since it was only** read **at one point it** did **not give a true picture of the overall temperature in the reaction system. The reaction rate constant of 40.1** x 10-5 sec. **-1 was nevertheless within about 5.8%** of the **literature** value.
- Run #3: The reaction **system** was in its final form for this run. Two **calibrated thermometers were** now **installed at** positions shown in the sketch. The reaction rate constant of 39.3 x $10^{-5}\,$ sec. $^{-1}$ found, is **further** in the right direction. Only one point is quite far off the straight **line** (see Graph 3).
- Run #4: This run was carried out without any modification of the reaction system to confirm **the** result obtained in the previous run. A reaction rate of 35.9 x 10^{-5} sec.⁻¹ was obtained with all points forming a good straight line. Since this **result** was within 6.4% of the literature value it **was** decided **that** equipment and method was made as suitable as possible.
- **Run #5: This** was to have been the first run using the dielectric field. A field strength of 8.0 kilovolts was recorded over the first 10 minutes of the run. **When** taking **the** reading at 20 **minutes,** the field had decayed as no voltage indication was **obtained.** The run was continued without the field.

Run #5: (continued)

A value of 37.0 x $10^{-5} \mathrm{sec.}^{-1}$ was obtained for the reaction rate constant which was the closest yet to the literature value of 37.9×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹.

- Run #6: This was the first run completely carried out under the influence of the field. The field, however, did not influence the reaction rate constant, which was found to be 38.2×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹ and very close to the literature value of 37.9×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹. It should be noted that a considerable amount of undercooling took place. This took place because the new pump was used for the first time, which as it turned out, does not heat up the system as much as the pump previously used. Having no provision for heating the reaction mass in the system, it took some time to reach 25^oC (see Table #6). However, the points were still all in a good straight line, so the effect of the 2°C undercooling must have been very small.
- Run #7: The field seemed to have a definite effect on the reaction rate constant in this run. The reaction rate constant obtained was 47.1×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹. This effect was not confirmed in the next two runs, therefore, there must have been some experimental error in the run. This run was

Run #7: (continued)

carried out just before the electronic calculators were moved from the old chemical engineering building. The calculations on this run were carried out about one month later when a new electronic calculator was found. At that stage it could not be ascertained whether the blank had been subtracted from the titration readings. It now seems, that it had not. Subtracting the blank from each reading would give normal titration readings and a much lower reaction rate constant.

- Run $#8$: This gave a reaction rate constant of 41.6 x 10⁻⁵ sec.⁻¹. This is a little higher than the literature value but does not confirm the high value of 47.1 x 10^{-5} sec.⁻¹ from the previous run. Since the situation was inconclusive at this point it was decided to make another run using the field with the aqueous ethanol (80%) solvent system.
- Run $#9$: Another inconclusive run giving a reaction rate constant of 39.9×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹. This is again higher than the literature value of 37.9 x 10^{-5} sec.⁻¹ but not enough to say with certainty that the dielectric field has had a definite effect.

- Runs $#$ 10 and 11: These were the first two runs using a different solvent system namely aqueous dioxane (75%). No dielectric field was applied for these two runs. The reaction rate constant values of 26.5 x 10^{-5} sec.⁻¹ and 27.6 x 10^{-5} sec.⁻¹ were close enough to each other to be used as the base for this system. The points on the graphs, however, were not as good as the aqueous ethanol (80%) system.
- Runs $#$ 12 and 13: These runs were using the aqueous dioxane (75%) solvent system with the application of the field at 8.0 kilovolts. The reaction rate constants obtained were 25.4×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹ and 25.8×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹ respectively. These are both a little below the values without field, but being on an average only about 3% different, it cannot be stated with certainty that the field had any effect.
- Runs $#14$ and 15: Both these two runs used aqueous acetone (75%) as the solvent system. No dielectric field was applied for these two runs. The reaction rate constant of 28.7 x 10^{-5} sec.⁻¹ and 29.9 x 10^{-5} sec.⁻¹ were

Runs $# 14$ and 15: (continued)

close enough to each other to act as a base for this system. The points on the graphs formed a better straight line than the aqueous dioxane (75%) system but not as good as the aqueous ethanol (75%) system. Temperature control was very good for both runs.

Runs # 16 and 17: These were the last two runs made. The solvent system was aqueous acetone (75%) with the application of the dielectric field at 8.0 kilovolts. The reaction rate constants obtained were 29.1 x 10^{-5} sec.⁻¹ and 27.5 \times 10⁻⁵ sec.⁻¹. They are both a little below the values obtained without the field. They are, however, on the average less than 2% different. This is too small to state that the field had any influence.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The values of the reaction rate constants obtained showed that the reaction system behaved as a constant volume batch reactor and that the **experimental procedure was capable of vying consistent results. Three consecutive runs, #3, #4 and #5, gave reaction rate constants with a maximum deviation of less than 4.0% from their average value. The deviation** of **the average value was also less 1.5% of the literature** value⁽⁷⁾. Considering the reaction system is not, strictly speaking, a **constant temperature reactor,** the **results** arc better **than were expected.** The **main sources of error** in the procedure were 1) **the difficulty** of getting **an end noint** deviating **12ss than 2% from** the **correct** value and 2) the difficulty **of getting exactly** the best straight **line through the graphical** points, especially if they **are** a bit scattered **as** in the aqueous dioxane (75%) **solvent system. The** latter **difficulty** was overcome by finding **the** actual slope by the method **of least squares. It** should, therefore, **be** assumed that reaction rate constant differences of less than 4.0% have no significance unless these are based on many consecutive runs. The reaction system and the reaction procedure is, therefore, suitable for **carrying** out original investigations, and obtaining **accurate** results.

$-21 -$

DISCUSSION OP RESULTS (continued)

An average value of the reaction rate constant is given for each solvent system, with and without the field, in tabular form below:

With the aqueous alcohol (80%) solvent system the average value of the reaction rate constant obtained for the runs using the dielectric field is 7.3% higher than those without the field. Assuming that the slightly higher values were due to the influence of the field, it would seem that at 8.0 kilovolts the field is just beginning to exert an influence on the rate of reaction. A considerably higher field strength should be used to enlarge these results.

A slightly lower average reaction rate constant was found for runs using the dielectric field **with** the aqueous dioxane (75%) solvent system. This difference was only 3.3% and is well within the accuracy limits of the

 $-23 -$

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS(continued)

experimental procedures which has been set at 4%. The points on **the** graphs are a little scattered **so it** is difficult to determine **which** is **exactly the correct straight line through all the points. This** takes away from **the** accuracy of the experimental procedure especially for this solvent system. The **maximum deviation of any** value of the reaction rate **constant** from **the** average **of all** the runs using the aqueous dioxane system (75%) was only 3.8% The dielectric field can safely be said to have had no effect on the rate of this reaction.

A slightly lower average reaction rate constant was also found using the dielectric field with the aqueous acetone solvert cystem. This difference was only 1.7% and is **well** within the accuracy limits of the experimental procedures which has been set at 4%. The maximum deviation of any value of the reaction rate constant from the average of all the runs using the aqueous acetone (75%) solvent system was only 2.8%. Therefore, the dielectric field can safely be said not to have had any influence on the rate of this reaction. It may also be seen from the plots of the reaction rate constants (see graphs $#1 - #17$) that most of the points for the aqueous ethanol system (75%) are in a much better straight line than for the other two solvent systems. The values obtained for the reaction rate constants are much more accurate in system. The increase of the reaction

DISCUSSIONOF RESULTS (continued)

rate constant for this system is of much greater significance than the **decrease in the other two systems. The 7.3% increase,** therefore, **has a good possibility of being the result of the field rather** than being **due to the normal distribution** of **values in experimental results.**

Assuming this to be true, the obvious conclusion **would have** been to increase the strength of the dielectric field. The voltage generator has a **rating up to 50 kilovolts so power supply was no problem.** However, **there is** electrical discharge between the edges of the plates above 9.0 kilovolts. Since it was only **discovered after many** runs and much time that 8.0 kilovolts was not powerful enough to effect **the rate** of the reaction **more** than **slightly, there** was no time or money to construct a newly shaped reactor and make a series of new runs. This must **regretfully be** left to future investigators.

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APPENDIX

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Run: #1

Room Temperature: 26°C

C. Water Temperature: 17°C

Volume of Reaction Mass: 565 ml

Initial Concentration of RX: 0.2615 gm. moles/litre **(weight) Final** Concentration of X: 0.2620 gm. moles/litre (titre) Normality of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0418 gm. moles/litre **Weight** of t-Butyl Bromide: 21.5050 gms. **Density** of Reaction Mass: 0.860 gms./ml

Adjustment Factor (F):

Reaction Rate Constant: 65.7×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹

Room Temperature: 26°C

C. Water Temperature: 18°C

Volume of Reaction Mass: 570 ml

Initial Concentration of RX: 0.1150 gm. moles/litre (weight) Final Concentration of X: 0.1175 gm. moles/litre (titre) Normality of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0206 gm. moles/litre Weight of t-Butyl Bromide: 9.4480 gms. Density of Reaction Mass: 0.850 gms./ml Adjustment Factor (F):

Reaction Rate Constant: 40.1×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹

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Room Temperature: 25°C

C. Water Temperature: 15°C **iolume** of Reaction Mass: 565 ml Initial Concentration of RX: 0.1003 gm. moles/litre (weight) **Final** Concentration of X: 0.1009 **gm.** moles/litre (titre) Normality of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0206 gm. **moles/litre Weight of t-Butyl** Bromide: 8.2472 **gms. Density of Reaction Mass: 0.848 gms./ml. Adjustment Factor** (F): **Reaction Rate Constant:** 39.3 x 10-5 sec.-1

GRAPH $#$ 3

Room Temperature: 25.5°C

C. Water Temperature: 21°c

Volume of Reaction Mass: 572 ml

Initial Concentration of RX: 0.0998 gm. moles/litre (weight) Final Concentration of X: 0.1025 gm. moles/litre (titre) Normality of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0206 gm. moles/litre Weight of t-Butyl Bromide: 8.2053 gms. **Density** of Reaction Mass: 0.850 gms./ml Adjustment Factor (F): Reaction Rate Constant: 35.9×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹

GKAPH $#$ 4

Room Temperature: 25°C

C. Water Temperature: 14°C

Volume of Reaction Mass: 568 ml **Initial** Concentration of RX: 0.1009 gm. moles/litre (weight) **Final** Concentration of X: 0.1029 gm. moles/litre (titre) **Normality** of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0206 gm. moles/litre **Weight** of t-Butyl Bromide: 8.2974 gms. Density of Reaction Mass: 0.849 gms./ml Adjustment Factor (F): **Reaction** Rate Constant: 37.0 x 10-5 sec.-1

Solvent: Aqueous Ethanol (80%) (V/V)

Room Temperature: 23°C

C. Water Temperature: 18°C

Volume of Reaction Mass: 570 ml

Initial Concentration of RX: 0.1000 gm. moles/litre (weight)

Final Concentration of X: 0.1013 gm. moles/litre (titre)

Normality of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0206 gm. moles/litre

Weight of t-Butyl Bromide: 8.2254 gms.

Density of Reaction Mass: 0.850 gms/ml

Adjustment Factor (F): 0.343

Reaction Rate Constant: 38.2×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹

Solvent: Aqueous Ethanol (80%) (V/V)

Room Temperature: 25°C

C. Water Temperature: 20°C

Volume of Reaction Mass: 564 ml

Initial Concentration of RX: 0.1009 Final Concentration of $X: 0.1013$ Normality of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0206 gm. moles/litre (weight) gm. moles/litre (titre) gm. moles/litre Weight of t-Butyl Bromide: 8.2958 gms. Density of Reaction Mass: 0.850 gms./m1 Adjustment Factor (F): 0.342 Reaction Rate Constant: 47.1×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹

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Room Temperature: 26°C

C. Water Temperature: 18°C **Volume of Reaction** Mass: 564 ml **Initial Concentration** of RX: 0.0996 **gm. moles/litre (weight) Final** Concentration of X: 0.1000 gm. **moles/litre (titre) Normality** of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0206 gm. **moles/litre Weight of** t-Butyl Bromide: 8.1912 gms. **Density** of Reaction Mass: 0.850 gms./ml Adjustment Factor (F): 0.342 **Reaction** Rate Constant: 41.6 x 10-5 sec-1

Solvent: Aqueous Ethanol (80%) (V/V)

Room Temperature: 26°C

C. Water Temperature: 20°C

Volume of Reaction Mass: 562 ml

Initial Concentration of RX:. 0.1000 gm. **moles/litre** (weight)

Final Concentration of X: 0.0992 **gm. moles/litre (titre)**

Normality of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0257 gm. **moles/litre**

Weight of t-Butyl Bromide: 8.2215 gms.

Density of Reaction Mass: 0.849 gms./ml

Adjustment Factor (F): 0.340

Reaction Rate Constant: 39.9 x 10-5 sec.-1

Solvent: Aqueous Dioxane (75%) (V/V)

Room Temperature: 24°C

C. Water Temperature: 21°C **Volume** of Reaction Mass: 565 ml **Initial** Concentration of RX: 0.1009 **gm. moles/litre (weight)** Final Concentration of X: 0.1010 gm. moles/litre (titre) Normality of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0206 gm. **moles/litre Weight** of t-Butyl Bromide: 8.2920 **gms. Density** of Reaction Mass: 1.032 gms./ml Adjustment Factor (F): Reaction Rate Constant: 26.5×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹

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Solvent: Aqueous Dioxane (75%) (V/V)

Room Temperature: 23°C

C. Water Temperature: 15°C Volume of Reaction Mass: 570 ml Initial Concentration of RX: 0.1000 gm. moles/litre (weight) Final Concentration of X: 0.1001 gm. moles/litre (titre) Normality of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0206 gm. moles/litre Weight of t-Butyl Bromide: 8.2256 gms. Density of Reaction Mass: 1.035 gms./ml Adjustment Factor (F): Reaction Rate Constant: $27.6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ sec.}^{-1}$

Solvent: Aqueous Dioxane (75%) (V/V)

Room Temperature: 25°C C. Water Temperature: 19°C Volume of Reaction Mass: 570 ml Initial Concentration of RX: 0.1004 gm. moles/litre (weight) Final Concentration of X: 0.1009 gm. moles/litre (titre) Normality of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0206 gm. moles/litre Weight of t-Butyl Bromide: 8.2554 gms. Density of Reaction Mass: 1.034 gms./ml Adjustment Factor (F): 0.350 Reaction Rate Constant: 26.4×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹

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Solvent: Aqueous Dioxane (75%) (V/V)

Room Temperature: 26°C

C. Water Temperature: 19°C

Volume of Reaction Mass: 568 **ml**

Initial Concentration of RX: 0.1006 gm. moles/litre (weight) Final Concentration of X: 0.1005 gm. moles/litre (titre)

Normality of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0206 gm. moles/litre

Weight of t-Butyl Bromide: 8.2610 **gms.**

Density of Reaction Mass: 1.034 **gms./ml**

Adjustment Factor (F): 0.345

Reaction Rate Constant: $25.8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ sec.}^{-1}$

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Solvent: Aqueous Acetone (75%) (V/V)

Room Temperature: 24°C

 $GRAPH$ # 14

Solvent: Aqueous Acetone $(75%)$ (V/V)

Room Temperature: 24°C

C. Water Temperature: 17°C **Volume** of Reaction Mass: 565 ml **Initial** Concentration of RX: 0.1000 gm. moles/litre (weight) Final Concentration of X: 0.0993 gm. moles/litre (titre) Normality of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0206 gm. moles/litre **Weight of** t-Butyl Bromide: 8.2250 **gms. Density** of Reaction Mass: 0.868 gms./ml Adjustment Factor (F): **Reaction Rate Constant:** 29.9×10^{-5} sec.⁻¹

GRAPH # 15

Solvent: Aqueous Acetone (75%) (V/V)

Room Temperature: 24°C

C. Water Temperature: 18°C Volume of Reaction Mass: 565 **ml Initial Concentration of RX:** 0.1000 gm. moles/litre (weight) **Final Concentration of X: 0.0993 gm. moles/litre (titre) Normality of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0206 gm. moles/litre Weight of t-Butyl Bromide: 8.2258 gms. Density of** Reaction Mass: 0.868 **gms./ml Adjustment** Factor (F): 0.343 **Reaction Rate Constant:** 29.1 x 10⁻⁵ sec.⁻¹

GRAPH #16

Solvent: Aqueous Acetone (75%) (V/V)

Room Temperature: 24°C **C. Water Temperature: 18°C Volume of Reaction** Mass: 568 **ml** Initial Concentration of RX: 0.1008 gm. moles/litre (weight) **Final Concentration of X: 0.1022 gm. moles/litre (titre) Normality of Sodium Hydroxide: 0.0206 gm. moles/litre Weight of t-Butyl Bromide:** 8.2856 **gms. Density of Reaction** Mass: 0.868 **gms./ml Adjustment Factor** (F): **0.345 Reaction Rate Constant: 28.5 x 10-5 sec.-1**

GRAPH # 1/

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GRAPH # 20
TABLE #.18 SAMPLE WEIGHTS Run: #1 Solvent: Aqueous Ethanol (80%) 1 2 3 4 5 6 88.4099 87.8009 90.3391 87.0690 91.3656 99.0719 87.4994 86.8929 89.4467 86.1527 90.4595 98.1670 0.9105 0.9080 0.8924 0.9163 0.9061 0.9049 7 8 9 ∞ Rx d 104.7287 105.9854 91.2768 92.9742 86.8273 88.8356 103.8345 105.0735 90.3628 92.0861 65.3223 67.3235 0.8942 0.9119 0.9140 0.8881 21.5050 21.5121 Run: #2 Solvent: Aqueous Ethanol (80%) 1 2 3 4 5 6 84.7475 87.4861 84.2610 83.7870 85.3640 90.7950 83.8240 86.6020 83.3560 82.8620 84.4769 89.9035 0.9235 0.8841 0.9050 0.9250 0.8871 0.8915 7 8 9 ∞ Rx d 86.2898 85.4444 83.0410 86.9308 74.7520 88.5068 85.3719 84.5540 82.1300 86.0256 65.3040 67.3103 0.9179 0.8904 0.9110 0.9052 9.4480 21.1965 Run: #3 Solvent: Aqueous Ethanol (80%) 1 2 3 4 5 6 85.8970 87.2841 88.9852 87.4020 88.7168 93.2824 84.9980 86.3710 88.0699 86.5086 87.8079 92.3796 0.8990 0.9131 0.9153 0.8934 0.9089 0.9028 7 and 8 co Rx d 75.7926 74.8299 86.4132 63.2694 79.1158 74.8893 73.9180 85.5108 55.0222 57.9772 0.9033 0.9119 0.9024 8.2472 21.1386

TABLE # 18 SAMPLE WEIGHTS

Run: #4

Solvent: Aqueous Ethanol (80%)

Run: #5

Solvent: Aqueous Ethanol (80%)

Run: #6

Solvent: Aqueous Ethanol (80%)

Run: #7

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Solvent: Aqueous Ethanol (80%)

NOTE: All numbers are in gms.

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TABLE # 18 SAMPLE WEIGHTS

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Run: #10

Solvent: Aqueous Dioxane (757)

Run: #11

Solvent: Aqueous Dioxane (75%)

Run: #12

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Solvent: Aqueous Dioxane (757)

TABLE # 18 SAMPLE WEIGHTS

Run: #13

Solvent: Aqueous Dioxane (75%)

Run: #15 Solvent: Aqueous Acetone (75%)

Run: #16

Solvent: Aqueous Acetone (75%)

Run: #17

Solvent: Aqueous Acetone (75%)

TABLE 19

EQUIPMENT DETAILS

- 1. 0.10 HP 3250 RPM Centrigugal Pump, Eastern Model P-6, Penton body construction with 316 S.S. shaft and impeller. (2)
- 2. 0.75" I.D. Glass Tube covered by two corper plates each 1" wide, $53.5''$ long and $0.45''$ apart. (1)
- 3. High Voltage Power Supply (0.50 kilovolts) Industrial Instruments Inc. (4)
- 4. Calibrated Alcohol Thermometer ($\frac{1}{4}$ 50°C) for lemp. 1 (7)
- 5. Calibrated Mercury Thermometer $(-10^{\circ}C + 260^{\circ}C)$ for Temp. 2 (8).
- 6. 10 ml Exac microburette

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- 7. 250 ml Pyrex Extraction Funnel (6)
- 8. Glass Condenser (used as cooler). (3)
- 9. Electric Balance (0-200 gms) Sagatorius

NOTE: The numbers in brackets are the numbers used for each piece of equipment in the equipment diagrams.

TABLE 20

DETAILS OF REAGENTS

1. Tert-Butyl Bromide (BP.72-74°C) MCB# BX1345

- 2. Sodium Hydroxide solution 0,2N (Reagent Grade) Fischer Lot #781248
- 3. Methanol (Reagent Grade) MCB# MK485

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- 4. Ethanol (Anhydrous Denatured)MCB# EX285
- 5. p-Dioxane (Practical) MCB# DX2105
- 6. Acetone (Reagent Grade) Merck MCB# AX120

Note: MCB# - is Matheson Coleman and Bell catalog order number

TABLE 21

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

This list of abbreviations applies to the Appendix only. All other abbreviations have been identified immediately after use.

- C_{χ} = Concentration of tert-butyl bromide at time t = t
- C_{X0} = Initial concentration of tert-butyl bromide at time $t = 0$

Temp. $1 =$ Temperature measured before reaction tube (see sketch)

Temp. $2 =$ Temperature measured after reaction tube (see sketch)

V = Voltage across dielectric field

Titre = Titration reading

Tit/m1= Titration reading per ml of sample

Tit(ad) = Titration reading per ml of sample after adjustment

 T_{∞} = Titration reading after completed reaction

 T_t = Titration reading at time t which is equal to Tit(ad)

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