



STANDARD pH VALUES FOR STANDARDIZATION OF POTENTIOMETRIC SENSORS IN 10% (w/w) ACETONITRILE-WATER MIXTURES

J. BARBOSA,¹ S. BUTI² and V. SANZ-NEBOT¹

¹Department of Analytical Chemistry, University of Barcelona, Diagonal, 647.08028 Barcelona, Spain

²Department of Chemical Engineering, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Av. V. Balaguer, s/n. 08800 Vilanova i la Geltrú, Barcelona, Spain

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Summary—Reference value standards, pH_s in 10% (w/w) acetonitrile-water solvent mixtures for 11 reference buffer solutions have been determined from reversible emf measurements of the cell Pt/Ag/AgCl/standard buffer + KCl, in acetonitrile-water/glass electrode, at 298.15 K. Values of ionization constants, required for above calculations, have been determined from reversible emf measurements of the cell Pt/Ag/AgCl/HA + A + KCl, in acetonitrile-water/glass electrode, in the same solvent composition and temperature.

Mixed aqueous organic solvents such as acetonitrile-water mixtures are widely used in DNA synthesizers, reversed-phase liquid chromatography (RPLC), capillary electrophoresis and electrochemistry. For successful systematic optimization of applications in these areas, accurate pH measurements in the more widely used binary aqueous organic solvents mixtures are needed, because pH is potentially a very useful parameter for achieving and optimizing methods.¹ Nowadays, investigations into the importance of pH changes for the interpretation of the ionization effect in nonaqueous phases has been restricted by limited validity of pH measurements made with conventional electrodes calibrated in aqueous solutions.²

The operational cell for pH measurements in a general (aqueous, nonaqueous or aqueous-organic) solvent s is:

standard buffer at known pH_s , respectively, and $(E_j)_x$ and $(E_j)_s$ are the corresponding liquid junction potentials localized at the liquid-liquid boundary, it can be shown that the following relation holds:

$$pH_x = pH_s + (E_s - E_x)/g + [(E_j)_x - (E_j)_s]/g \quad (1)$$

where $g = (\ln 10)RT/F$. The term $[(E_j)_x - (E_j)_s]$ is called residual liquid junction potential, and is a concealed but important factor to be controlled in terms of uncertainty in pH measurements. The IUPAC recommends to choose a standard reference solution to match pH_x as closely as possible in pH, composition and ionic strength so that the residual liquid junction potential term become small.³ Therefore, this term is officially ignored to give:

$$pH_x = pH_s + (E_s - E_x)/g \quad (2)$$

| | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|---|------------------------------|-----|
| Reference electrode | Salt bridge | Sample solution at pH_x or Buffer Solution at pH_s in solvent s | H^+ -response electrode | (A) |
|------------------------|----------------|---|------------------------------|-----|

where, from the point of view of practical measurements, the H^+ response electrode is usually a glass electrode and is coupled with a suitable reference electrode, commonly calomel or silver-silver chloride electrode.

If E_x and E_s denote the emf measurements on the sample solution at unknown pH_x and on the

which is the internationally recognized operational equation for the electrometric pH measurements.^{3,4}

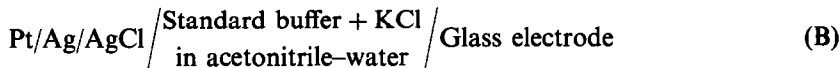
Also, when there is a well-founded suspicion that the residual junction potential term cannot be neglected (*e.g.* for possible inappropriateness or ineffectiveness of the salt bridge chosen), the

error in pH_x caused can be reasonably reduced by the procedure of bracketing unknown and standards,^{3,4} namely, measuring two emfs E_{s1} and E_{s2} of cell (A) with the two respective standards, pH_{s1} and pH_{s2} , one lower and the other higher than (and as close as possible to) the unknown pH_x . In such case the operational equation becomes:

$$\text{pH}_x = \text{pH}_{s1} + (E_x - E_{s1}) \times (\text{pH}_{s2} - \text{pH}_{s1}) / (E_{s2} - E_{s1}) \quad (3)$$

equations (2) and (3) focus the necessity of prior knowledge of pH_s values to obtain pH_x from emf measurements in cell (A). Determination of accurate pH_s values is the key of pH-metric problem in aqueous-organic solvent mixtures and can be solved by using accepted procedures and conventions⁵ quite recently endorsed by the IUPAC.

The experimental procedure for standard pH_s values determination was based on emf measurements of the reversible cell without liquid junction:⁶



at 298.15 K, at fixed molality for the standard buffer but at various concentrations of KCl added to the buffer solution in acetonitrile-water mixtures. In fact, the functional expression of emf values of cell (B), E , for the evaluation of pH is:

$$p(a_{\text{H}^+} \gamma_{\text{Cl}^-}) = \text{pH} + p\gamma_{\text{Cl}^-} = [(E^0 - E)/g] - pc_{\text{Cl}^-} \quad (4)$$

where E^0 is the standard emf of the cell, values of which are essential and have been determined as in a previous work.⁷

Equation (4) eloquently shows that the quantity $p(a_{\text{H}^+} \gamma_{\text{Cl}^-})$, which differs from pH just by $p\gamma_{\text{Cl}^-}$, is determinable in exact thermodynamic terms but an extrathermodynamic assumption, *i.e.* a Debye-Hückel equation in the form that allows for the restriction of the attraction between ions due to their finite size

$$p\gamma_{\text{Cl}^-} = \frac{AI^{1/2}}{(1 + a_0 BI^{1/2})} \quad (5)$$

is necessary to split the thermodynamic quantity $p(a_{\text{H}^+} \gamma_{\text{Cl}^-})$ into the two extra thermodynamic quantities pH and $p\gamma_{\text{Cl}^-}$. The value of ion-size parameter a_0 in equation (5) is fixed by the Bates-Guggenheim rule

$$(a_0 B)_T = 1.5[\epsilon^W \rho^S / (\epsilon^S \rho^W)]_T^{1/2} \quad (6)$$

in accordance with the IUPAC recommendations.^{3,4,5} The superscripts W and S refer to pure water and to the organic mixture, respectively, and the values of the dielectric constant, ϵ , density ρ , and Debye-Hückel constant, A , are collected in a previous work.⁷

Calculation of $p\gamma_{\text{Cl}^-}$ through equation (5) requires knowledge of the ionic strength I of the standard buffer + KCl mixed electrolyte solutions

$$I = I_s + c_{\text{Cl}^-} \quad (7)$$

but I_s , the ionic strength of the standard buffer, is, in turn, function of the H^+ concentration, c_{H^+} , which is expressed by

$$pc_{\text{H}^+} = \frac{(E^0 - E)}{g} - pc_{\text{Cl}^-} - p(\gamma_{\text{H}^+} \gamma_{\text{Cl}^-}) \quad (8)$$

and of the ionization constants, pK , corresponding to the equilibria involved in the standard buffer solutions in acetonitrile-water mixtures. Thus, preliminary knowledge of pK values of the pH reference materials are necessary.

Then, calculation of $p\gamma_{\text{Cl}^-}$ values must proceed by successive iterations. Initially one takes $I = c_s + c_{\text{Cl}^-}$ and obtains $p\gamma_{\text{Cl}^-}$ by equation (5) for their subsequent insertion in equation (8) to obtain pc_{H^+} and a better value of I by equation (7). Thus, one calculates again the $p\gamma_{\text{Cl}^-}$ value by equation (5), and so on, until constancy of I is obtained.

Inserting $p\gamma_{\text{Cl}^-}$ in equation (4), one distinct pH value is obtained for each concentration c_{Cl^-} examined. The standard value, pH_s , for standard buffer alone at the fixed molality recommended for International pH Standards³ can finally be obtained as the intercept at $c_{\text{Cl}^-} = 0$ from the pH vs c_{Cl^-} linear regression at the mole fraction x of acetonitrile studied.

Values of the ionization constants of the pH reference materials, which are required for the

iterative calculations described in the preceding paragraphs were hitherto missing. These pK values can be determined⁸ from systematic measurements of the emf E of the cell C in acetonitrile–water mixtures at different concentrations of the mixed electrolyte,



where HA and A are the acid and basic species, respectively involved in the dissociation equilibrium studied.

Taken into account the general expression for the dissociation equilibria

$$K = \frac{c_A \gamma_A c_{\text{H}^+} \gamma_{\text{H}^+}}{c_{\text{HA}} \gamma_{\text{HA}}} \quad (9)$$

the functional equation (10), which permits the pK calculation is obtained

$$\frac{E^0 - E}{g} + \log \frac{c_{\text{HA}} \gamma_{\text{HA}} c_{\text{Cl}^-} \gamma_{\text{Cl}^-}}{c_A \gamma_A} = \text{pK} \quad (10)$$

If the pK value is less than 5, computation of c_{HA} and c_A values require the calculation of the hydrogen ion concentration, c_{H^+} . This term must be calculated from the measured value of $p(a_{\text{H}^+} \gamma_{\text{Cl}^-})$ which requires the Debye–Hückel equation and thus a knowledge of the ionic strength. Again, the use of an iterative cycle for each point of potentiometric titration at which E is measured in cell (C), must be made.

Acids with two or more equilibria, whose dissociation constants differ less than two units as tartaric and citric acids, make up a special case because it is necessary to take into account all the existing equilibria. A computer program, written in Pascal,⁹ based on the minimization of the sum of the square residuals is used in order to determine these pK values.

In terms of acetonitrile–water solvent mixtures, pH_s data are available only for 0.05 mol/kg potassium hydrogen phthalate buffer solution^{8,10} and for 0.025 mol/kg potassium dihydrogen phosphate + 0.025 mol/kg disodium hydrogen phosphate,⁶ at various percentages of acetonitrile. In general, the present availability of standard buffer solution pH values, pH_s , in mixed solvents is highly unsatisfactory and only few data for potassium hydrogen phthalate are available.^{11–15} However, the lack of experimental standard pH_s

data in 10% (w/w) acetonitrile–water mixtures prompted the determination of the standard pH_s values and the respective relevant pK values for 11 standard reference solutions in this widely used in RPLC solvent media.

EXPERIMENTAL

Apparatus

Values of the emf of the potentiometric cell were measured with a CRISON 2002 potentiometer (± 0.1 mV) using a Radiometer G202C glass electrode and a reference Ag/AgCl electrode prepared according to the electrolytic method.⁷ The cell was thermostated externally at $25 \pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$. All the potentiometric assembly was automatically controlled with a microcomputer.

Reagents

Analytical reagent grade chemicals were used unless indicated otherwise. Potassium hydrogen tartrate, potassium dihydrogen citrate, potassium dihydrogen phosphate, disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium hydrogen carbonate, sodium carbonate anhydrous, disodium tetraborate decahydrate, potassium tetraoxalate dihydrate and potassium hydrogen phthalate are Merck reagents for preparation of pH standard buffer solutions according to DIN 19266. Chemicals are dried at 110°C before use except $\text{KH}_3(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ which are dried below 50°C and Borax, which are kepted in a desiccator containing an aqueous solution saturated with respect to both sucrose and sodium chloride, in order to maintain the correct degree of hydration. Salicylic acid was purified by sublimation.

Stock 0.1M potassium hydroxide (Carlo Erba, RPE grade) solutions were prepared with an ion-exchange resin¹⁶ to avoid carbonation and were standardized volumetrically against potassium hydrogen phthalate. All the solutions were prepared by mixing doubly distilled freshly boiled water which conductivity did not exceed $0.05 \mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ and acetonitrile (Merck, for chromatography grade).

Procedures

Standard pH values of studied buffer solutions, in 10% (w/w) acetonitrile–water mixtures, pH_s , were assigned by using the procedure adopted by the IUPAC.⁵ This procedure involves emf measurements of cell (B) containing the buffer solutions of specified concentration^{3,5,12} with added potassium chloride.

Values of ionization constants required for the standard pH_s determinations have been evaluated from titrations of acid species solutions at suitable concentration (tartaric acid, citric acid, potassium dihydrogen phosphate, boric acid,

phtalic acid, salicylic acid, chloracetic acid and oxalic acid) containing approximately $5 \times 10^{-4} M$ KCl solution (in order to assure a correct electrode response) in acetonitrile–water mixtures with 10% (w/w) acetonitrile contents, using KOH solutions in the same solvent as titrant.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

emf measurements of cell (C) at various concentrations of acidic HA and basic A species for every buffers studied were made in 10% (w/w)

Table 1. Measured emf values of cell (C), (E) (mV), molar activity coefficients of monoprotated species and pH and pK values at different concentrations of acidic and basic species, [HA] and [A], respectively. V_0 is the initial solution volume, V_e the equivalence volume, C_t the titrant concentration, [KCl] the initial KCl concentration and E^0 the standard emf of cell

| Boric acid | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|------------------------|------------------------|--------|------------------|----------------------|--|
| V_0 | V_e | C_t | [KCl] | E^0 | pK_{ap} | | |
| 20 | 1.49 | 0.0998 | 6.70×10^{-4} | 407.33 | 14.26 | | |
| V | E | [HA] | [A] | y | pH | pK_a | |
| 0.10 | -278.5 | $6.93e \times 10^{-3}$ | $4.97e \times 10^{-4}$ | 0.960 | 8.40 | 9.56 | |
| 0.20 | -298.5 | $6.40e \times 10^{-3}$ | $9.88e \times 10^{-4}$ | 0.953 | 8.73 | 9.56 | |
| 0.30 | -311.2 | $5.87e \times 10^{-3}$ | $1.47e \times 10^{-3}$ | 0.948 | 8.94 | 9.57 | |
| 0.40 | -320.8 | $5.36e \times 10^{-3}$ | $1.96e \times 10^{-3}$ | 0.943 | 9.10 | 9.56 | |
| 0.60 | -336.4 | $4.34e \times 10^{-3}$ | $2.91e \times 10^{-3}$ | 0.934 | 9.36 | 9.56 | |
| 0.70 | -343.4 | $3.83e \times 10^{-3}$ | $3.37e \times 10^{-3}$ | 0.930 | 9.47 | 9.56 | |
| 0.80 | -350.1 | $3.33e \times 10^{-3}$ | $3.84e \times 10^{-3}$ | 0.927 | 9.58 | 9.55 | |
| 0.90 | -356.9 | $2.84e \times 10^{-3}$ | $4.30e \times 10^{-3}$ | 0.924 | 9.69 | 9.55 | |
| 1.00 | -364.0 | $2.35e \times 10^{-3}$ | $4.75e \times 10^{-3}$ | 0.921 | 9.81 | 9.54 | |
| | | | | | | $\text{pK}_a = 9.55$ | |
| | | | | | | $s = 0.01$ | |
| | | | | | | $N = 9$ | |
| Salicylic acid | | | | | | | |
| V_0 | V_e | C_t | [KCl] | E^0 | pK_{ap} | | |
| 20 | 1.05 | 0.0998 | 7.83×10^{-4} | 407.33 | 14.26 | | |
| V | E | [HA] | [A] | y | pH | pK_a | |
| 0.10 | 52.1 | 3.29×10^{-3} | 1.93×10^{-3} | 0.942 | 2.87 | 3.13 | |
| 0.20 | 46.7 | 3.03×10^{-3} | 2.16×10^{-3} | 0.940 | 2.96 | 3.13 | |
| 0.30 | 40.9 | 2.74×10^{-3} | 2.42×10^{-3} | 0.937 | 3.05 | 3.14 | |
| 0.40 | 34.6 | 2.43×10^{-3} | 2.70×10^{-3} | 0.935 | 3.16 | 3.14 | |
| 0.50 | 27.7 | 2.10×10^{-3} | 3.01×10^{-3} | 0.932 | 3.27 | 3.14 | |
| 0.60 | 20.1 | 1.75×10^{-3} | 3.34×10^{-3} | 0.930 | 3.40 | 3.15 | |
| 0.70 | 11.3 | 1.38×10^{-3} | 3.68×10^{-3} | 0.927 | 3.54 | 3.15 | |
| 0.80 | 0.2 | 9.96×10^{-4} | 4.04×10^{-3} | 0.925 | 3.72 | 3.15 | |
| | | | | | | $\text{pK}_a = 3.14$ | |
| | | | | | | $s = 0.01$ | |
| | | | | | | $N = 8$ | |
| Chloracetic acid | | | | | | | |
| V_0 | V_e | C_t | [KCl] | E^0 | pK_{ap} | | |
| 20 | 1.32 | 0.0998 | 7.83×10^{-4} | 407.33 | 14.26 | | |
| V | E | [HA] | [A] | y | pH | pK_a | |
| 0.10 | 57.8 | $4.25e \times 10^{-3}$ | $2.30e \times 10^{-4}$ | 0.938 | 8.40 | 3.07 | |
| 0.20 | 53.6 | $3.99e \times 10^{-3}$ | $2.53e \times 10^{-4}$ | 0.936 | 8.73 | 3.07 | |
| 0.40 | 44.4 | $3.40e \times 10^{-3}$ | $3.06e \times 10^{-3}$ | 0.932 | 8.94 | 3.07 | |
| 0.60 | 34.1 | $2.74e \times 10^{-3}$ | $3.66e \times 10^{-3}$ | 0.928 | 9.10 | 3.06 | |
| 0.70 | 28.2 | $2.39e \times 10^{-3}$ | $3.98e \times 10^{-3}$ | 0.925 | 9.24 | 3.07 | |
| 0.90 | 14.5 | $1.65e \times 10^{-3}$ | $4.66e \times 10^{-3}$ | 0.921 | 9.36 | 3.06 | |
| 1.10 | -5.6 | $8.73e \times 10^{-3}$ | $5.37e \times 10^{-3}$ | 0.917 | 9.47 | 3.06 | |
| | | | | | | $\text{pK}_a = 3.06$ | |
| | | | | | | $s = 0.01$ | |
| | | | | | | $N = 7$ | |

Table 2. pK values of pH reference materials in 10% (w/w) acetonitrile–water mixtures at 298.15 K

| Substance | pK ₁ | pK ₂ | pK ₃ |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Tartaric acid | 3.27 (0.02) | 4.57 (0.01) | |
| Citric acid | 3.40 (0.05) | 5.01 (0.03) | 6.68 (0.04) |
| K dihydrogenphosphate | 7.46 (0.01)* | | |
| Boric acid | 9.57 (0.05) | | |
| Phthalic acid | 3.15 (0.02) | 5.77 (0.04) | |
| Acetic acid | 4.97 (0.04) | | |
| Oxalic acid | 1.49 (0.04) | 4.57 (0.01) | |
| Chloracetic acid | 3.08 (0.02) | | |
| Salicylic acid | 3.14 (0.01) | | |

*Value obtained from Ref. 6.

acetonitrile–water mixtures. In this paper we omit long tables giving all experimental data, but data for one series of solutions of boric, salicylic and chloracetic acids approximately $5 \times 10^{-5} M$ in 10% (w/w) acetonitrile–water mixtures are presented as example in Table 1. The pK values obtained from these measurements, using equation (10), are necessary for the

subsequent pH_i values calculation and have been reported in Table 2.

The seven primary standards of the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) in aqueous media^{3,17} are obviously included in this work: saturated potassium hydrogen tartrate, at 25°C (KH tartrate); potassium dihydrogen citrate, 0.05 mol/kg (KH₂ citrate); sodium hydrogen

Table 3. Measured emf values of cell (B), E (mV), molar activity coefficients of monoprotinated species and pH values at various KCl concentration, c_{Cl^-} (mM), in 10% (w/w) acetonitrile–water solutions, for all the buffers studied

| Buffers | C_{Cl^-} | E | γ | pH | Buffers | C_{Cl^-} | E | γ | pH |
|---|------------|--------|----------|--------|------------------------------------|------------|-------|----------|-------|
| Saturated potassium dihydrogen tartrate. | 4.0 | 35.3 | 0.838 | 3.797 | Potassium hydrogen phthalate | 5.2 | 10.9 | 0.803 | 4.311 |
| | 11.6 | 63.4 | 0.825 | 3.783 | | 15.2 | 38.7 | 0.793 | 4.300 |
| | 22.6 | 80.7 | 0.810 | 3.771 | 0.05 mol/kg | 24.7 | 51.5 | 0.784 | 4.288 |
| | 33.0 | 91.5 | 0.799 | 3.746 | | 33.6 | 59.9 | 0.777 | 4.276 |
| | 42.8 | 98.9 | 0.789 | 3.729 | | 42.0 | 66.1 | 0.771 | 4.265 |
| | 49.1 | 102.6 | 0.784 | 3.723 | | 53.9 | 73.1 | 0.762 | 4.251 |
| Potassium dihydrogen citrate, 0.05 mol/kg | 9.9 | 47.2 | 0.795 | 3.989 | Acetic acid, 0.1 mol/l | 7.9 | -15.0 | 0.760 | 4.902 |
| | 16.2 | 60.1 | 0.789 | 3.981 | + | 15.4 | 2.2 | 0.755 | 4.901 |
| | 22.2 | 68.7 | 0.784 | 3.971 | Sodium acetate, 0.1 mol/l | 33.1 | 21.7 | 0.745 | 4.898 |
| | 28.1 | 74.9 | 0.779 | 3.964 | | 43.0 | 28.4 | 0.740 | 4.895 |
| | 33.7 | 79.9 | 0.774 | 3.957 | | 49.3 | 31.9 | 0.737 | 4.893 |
| | 39.1 | 84.0 | 0.770 | 3.950 | | 52.3 | 33.5 | 0.736 | 4.892 |
| Na hydrogen phosphate, 0.025 mol/kg | 3.3 | -169.7 | 0.765 | 7.141 | Oxalic acid, 0.05 mol/kg | 8.8 | 174.1 | 0.782 | 1.736 |
| | 4.7 | -160.4 | 0.764 | 7.138 | + | 17.0 | 191.0 | 0.776 | 1.735 |
| | 5.4 | -156.8 | 0.763 | 7.137 | | 24.9 | 200.6 | 0.770 | 1.734 |
| + | 6.1 | -153.6 | 0.763 | 7.136 | K hydrogen oxalate, 0.05 mol/kg | 29.8 | 205.3 | 0.766 | 1.731 |
| K dihydrogen phosphate, 0.025 mol/kg | 8.1 | -146.1 | 0.762 | 7.133 | | 34.6 | 209.1 | 0.763 | 1.730 |
| | 9.5 | -142.0 | 0.761 | 7.129 | | 39.3 | 212.3 | 0.760 | 1.729 |
| Na hydrogen phosphate, 0.03043 mol/kg | 3.7 | -199.3 | 0.765 | 7.696 | Salicylic acid, 0.01 mol/kg | 8.3 | 85.6 | 0.866 | 3.302 |
| | 7.4 | -181.3 | 0.762 | 7.690 | + | 13.5 | 98.7 | 0.854 | 3.287 |
| | 14.7 | -163.2 | 0.758 | 7.677 | | 18.6 | 107.2 | 0.843 | 3.276 |
| + | 21.8 | -152.4 | 0.754 | 7.665 | Sodium salicylate, 0.01 mol/kg | 23.4 | 113.5 | 0.835 | 3.266 |
| K dihydrogen phosphate, 0.008695 mol/kg | 32.2 | -141.5 | 0.748 | 7.647 | | 28.1 | 118.5 | 0.827 | 3.257 |
| | 42.4 | -133.7 | 0.743 | 7.631 | | 32.7 | 122.6 | 0.821 | 3.249 |
| Sodium tetraborate, 0.01 mol/kg | 8.0 | -289.4 | 0.845 | 9.593 | Chloracetic acid, 0.05 mol/l | 9.4 | 99.4 | 0.797 | 3.104 |
| | 15.6 | -272.2 | 0.832 | 9.588 | + | 20.3 | 118.9 | 0.787 | 3.101 |
| | 23.0 | -262.2 | 0.821 | 9.581 | | 22.4 | 121.4 | 0.785 | 3.099 |
| | 33.6 | -252.2 | 0.807 | 9.568 | Potassium chloracetate, 0.05 mol/l | 26.3 | 125.6 | 0.780 | 3.098 |
| | 40.3 | -247.4 | 0.800 | 9.562 | | 28.3 | 129.1 | 0.778 | 3.097 |
| | 49.9 | -241.6 | 0.790 | 9.552 | | 32.1 | 130.6 | 0.777 | 3.096 |
| Na hydrogen carbonate, 0.025 mol/kg | 15.8 | -374.8 | 0.758 | 11.286 | | | | | |
| | 25.6 | -362.1 | 0.752 | 11.278 | | | | | |
| | 34.9 | -353.9 | 0.747 | 11.270 | | | | | |
| + | 43.6 | -347.8 | 0.743 | 11.262 | | | | | |
| Na carbonate, 0.025 mol/kg | 52.0 | -343.1 | 0.739 | 11.256 | | | | | |
| | 59.9 | -339.2 | 0.735 | 11.249 | | | | | |

Table 4. Typical regression equations of pH *vs.* chloride concentration for the reference buffer solutions in 10% (w/w) acetonitrile–water mixtures at 298.15 K

| Buffer solution | Regression equation | r^2 | N^\dagger |
|-----------------------|---|-------|-------------|
| KH tartrate | $\text{pH} = 3.804 - 1.397[\text{Cl}^-]$ | 0.994 | 9 |
| KH_2 citrate | $\text{pH} = 3.995 - 1.330[\text{Cl}^-]$ | 0.997 | 13 |
| Phosphate buffer I | $\text{pH} = 7.150 - 4.363[\text{Cl}^-]$ | 0.995 | 11 |
| Phosphate buffer II | $\text{pH} = 7.694 - 1.736[\text{Cl}^-]$ | 0.999 | 9 |
| Na tetraborate | $\text{pH} = 9.602 - 0.987[\text{Cl}^-]$ | 0.996 | 15 |
| Carbonate buffer | $\text{pH} = 11.372 - 1.889[\text{Cl}^-]$ | 0.991 | 8 |
| KH phthalate | $\text{pH} = 4.318 - 1.229[\text{Cl}^-]$ | 0.999 | 16 |
| Acetate buffer | $\text{pH} = 4.895 - 0.445[\text{Cl}^-]$ | 0.991 | 7 |
| Salicylate buffer | $\text{pH} = 3.318 - 2.159[\text{Cl}^-]$ | 0.995 | 13 |
| Chloracetate buffer | $\text{pH} = 3.108 - 0.961[\text{Cl}^-]$ | 0.993 | 9 |
| Oxalate buffer | $\text{pH} = 1.740 - 0.288[\text{Cl}^-]$ | 0.993 | 11 |

$^\dagger N$: Number of experimental points.

phosphate 0.025 mol/kg + potassium dihydrogen phosphate, 0.025 mol/kg (phosphate buffer I); sodium hydrogen phosphate 0.03043 mol/kg + potassium dihydrogen phosphate 0.008695 mol/kg (phosphate buffer II); sodium tetraborate, 0.01 mol/kg (Na tetraborate); sodium hydrogen carbonate, 0.025 mol/kg + sodium carbonate, 0.025 mol/kg (carbonate buffer); potassium hydrogen phthalate, 0.05 mol/kg (KH phthalate). Together with other buffers considered as operational standards of $\text{pH}^{3,5,18}$ and commonly used in HPLC:¹⁹ sodium acetate 0.1 mol/l + acetic acid 0.1 mol/l (acetate buffer); oxalic acid 0.05 mol/kg + potassium hydrogen oxalate 0.05 mol/kg (oxalate buffer); salicylic acid 0.01 mol/kg + sodium salicylate 0.01 mol/kg (salicylate buffer); chloroacetic acid 0.05 mol/l + potassium chloroacetate 0.05 mol/l (chloroacetate buffer).

Their pH_s values are determined from emf measurements of the reversible cell without liquid junction potential, cell B, at different KCl concentrations. This fact means a high number of experimental data, but for the sake of brevity, only one series of emf measurements for each standard are quoted in Table 3, together with the corresponding molar activity coefficients values of monoprotated species and pH.

When the pH values for each buffer solution were plotted as a function of c_{Cl^-} , straight lines of small slope were obtained. Typical regression equations are shown in Table 4 for every buffer solutions in 10% (w/w) acetonitrile–water mixtures at 10^{-3} – $10^{-2}M$ chloride concentration. The intercept at $c_{\text{Cl}^-} = 0$ give the pH_s values for each set of results, with an associated error of the order of 0.0008 in most cases, and the average pH_s values are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. pH_s values and standard deviations of the mean for 11 standard reference solutions in 10% (w/w) acetonitrile–water mixture at 298.15 K

| Reference solutions | pH_s |
|---|----------------|
| Saturated potassium hydrogen tartrate, at 25°C | 3.802 (0.004) |
| Potassium dihydrogen citrate, 0.05 mol/kg | 3.994 (0.007) |
| Sodium hydrogen phosphate, 0.025 mol/kg + potassium dihydrogen phosphate, 0.025 mol/kg | 7.149* (0.007) |
| Sodium hydrogen phosphate, 0.03043 mol/kg + potassium dihydrogen phosphate, 0.008695 mol/kg | 7.697 (0.006) |
| Sodium tetraborate, 0.01 mol/kg | 9.600 (0.003) |
| Sodium hydrogen carbonate, 0.025 mol/kg + Sodium carbonate, 0.025 mol/kg | 11.353 (0.05) |
| Potassium phthalate, 0.05 mol/kg | 4.318 (0.005) |
| Sodium acetate, 0.1 mol/l + acetic acid 0.1 mol/l | 4.898 (0.004) |
| Salicylic acid, 0.01 mol/kg + sodium salicylate, 0.01 mol/kg | 3.318 (0.001) |
| Chloroacetic acid, 0.5 mol/l + potassium chloroacetate, 0.5 mol/l | 3.113 (0.006) |
| Oxalic acid, 0.05 mol/kg + potassium hydrogen oxalate, 0.05 mol/kg | 1.744 (0.007) |

*Value obtained from Ref. 6.

This table includes the standard deviation of the mean for the pH_s values. Except in the case of carbonate buffer, those values verify a very good reproducibility of measurements.

Thereby, the acetonitrile–water mixtures with 10% (w/w) acetonitrile contents have been provided of a set of 11 buffer solutions with accurately known pH_s values over the whole of pH scale in this media.

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