

Qualitative understanding of partition preferences

- Introduction
- ▶ Cavity model
- ▶ Rules for partitioning
- The cavity model in quantitative terms

▼ Selftest

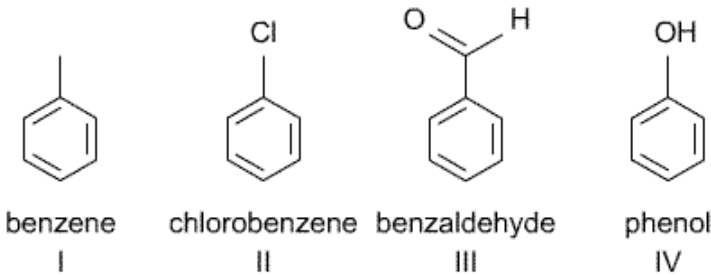
- ↓ ● 1) What does the cavity model say?  
↓ ● Answer
- ↓ ● 2) Main interactions ... ?  
↓ ● Answer
- ↓ ● 3) Size of a *solute* molecule ... ?  
↓ ● Answer
- ↓ ● 4) Size of the *solvent* molecule ... ?  
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- ↓ ● 6) "Like dissolves like"  
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- ↓ ● 9) Illustration by given data?  
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- ↓ ● 12) Tendency to distribute  
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12) Tendency to distribute

Question:

Rank the four compounds (I – IV) indicated below in the order of increasing tendency to distribute from (a) air into hexadecane (mimicking an apolar environment), (b) from air to olive oil, and (c) from air to water.

These are the respective volumina for the compounds:  
benzene 0.716  
chlorobenzene 0.839  
benzaldehyde 0.873  
phenol 0.775



Answer:

The order of experimental data does not always match the results of qualitative estimates. However, differences in K-values are usually smaller than a factor 3. You cannot expect a qualitative estimation to perform better than that. In addition, please note that a qualitative estimation cannot always be carried out.

air -> hexadecane

	benzene I	chlorobenzene II	benzaldehyde III	phenol IV
K <sub>air/C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>34</sub></sub>	1.6 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	2.2 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.0 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.7 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>

The large difference between the partitioning coefficients of benzene and phenol are somewhat unexpected since they have a similar molecular size.

air -> olive oil

	benzene I	chlorobenzene II	benzaldehyde III	phenol IV
K <sub>air/olive oil</sub>	1.5 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.8 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	n.a.	2.3 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>

air -> water

	benzene I	chlorobenzene II	benzaldehyde III	phenol IV
K <sub>air/olive oil</sub>	0.23	0.15	1.1 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.4 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>

