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Argentation Constants of Styrene Derivatives*1

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Equilibrium constants for the formation of silver ion complexes (argentation constants) of styrene derivatives in water were measured at 0 and 25°C by Andrews and Keefer's solubility method. The argentation constants for the 1:1 complex (K_1) decreased in this order: $cis-\beta$ -alkylstyrene> α -alkylstyrene> $trans-\beta$ -alkylstyrene, for a given alkyl group. This order was related to differences in the resonance stabilization of the double bond. The K_1 values of the α - and β -alkylstyrene series did not seem to correlate with Taft's steric substituent constant, E_s , within the respective series. However, when the hyperconjugation effect of alkyl substituents was considered, a good linearity between $\log K_1$ and Hancock's parameter, E_s , was obtained. Thus, the steric effect was separated from the hyperconjugation effect, and it was found that the steric effects for the three series are nearly identical. Thermodynamic data indicated that an isokinetic relationship holds between ΔH and ΔS and that the argentation equilibrium is controlled mainly by the entropy factor. The degree of methyl substitution at the double bond of styrene slightly influenced the K_1 values, although 1,2-dihydronaphthalene had an abnormally large K_1 value.

The argentation (silver ion complexation) equilibria of unsaturated compounds have been investigated by several groups of workers. 1-6) The stabilities of the complexes of the silver ion with unsaturated compounds may be interpreted as the sum of the independent contributions of polar, resonance, and steric effects of substituents. The polar effects were discussed in terms of the Hammett ρ - σ relation for benzene derivatives by Andrews and Keefer1) and for ring-substituted styrenes and other olefins by Fueno and his co-workers.2-4) For the resonance effect, it has already been established that the argentation equilibria are affected by the conjugation of substituents with the reaction center.5) Although the literature contains references to the steric effect of substituents on the argentation equilibria, the investigations have not been extended beyond qualitative discussions. Both Winstein and Lucas⁵⁾ and Fueno et al.²⁾ suggested that the reason for the reluctance of β -methylstyrene to argentate is the steric effect of the substituent. Muhs and Weiss⁶) measured the argentation constants of many unsaturated compounds by the gas chromatographic method and discussed the steric effects of substituents qualitatively.

The present investigation was undertaken to obtain information concerning the steric effects in the argentation of styrene derivatives. In separate reports,7,8) we have previously reported on our observations of the steric effects in the radical copolymerizations of α - and β -alkylstyrenes with acrylonitrile. From the difference in the steric effects of α - and β -alkylstyrenes in the radical copolymerizations, it was deduced that the transition state of the radical polymerization is not of the π -complex type but of the σ -complex type. Since it is known that the silver ion forms a π -complex with an unsaturated compound, the steric effect in the argentation of styrene derivatives may also give information concerning the transition state of the radical polymerization.

In the present investigation, the argentation constants of α - and β -alkylstyrenes in water were measured by Andrews and Keefer's solubility method.¹⁾ Also, the argentation constants of *cis*-and *trans-* α , β -dimethylstyrenes, β , β -dimethylstyrene, 1,2-dihydronaphthalene, and indene were determined and compared with the values of the above styrenes.

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Experimental

Materials. The styrene and α-methylstyrene were obtained commercially. The other a-alkylstyrenes were synthesized by the Wittig reaction of alkyl phenyl ketones, much as in a previous paper.8) By the Wittig reaction of the corresponding aldehydes, β -alkylstyrenes were prepared.⁷⁾ The cis- and trans-isomers of these styrenes were fractionated by distillation under reduced pressure, using a stainless-steel helipack column of about 30 theoretical plates. Also, the cis-and trans- α, β -dimethylstyrenes, and β , β -dimethylstyrene were obtained by the Wittig reaction. The 1,2-dihydronaphthalene was synthesized according to the literature.9) The indene was obtained commercially. These olefines were purified by rectifications under reduced pressure and, immediately before use, were treated with lithium aluminum hydride overnight and redistilled under a high vacuum. The silver nitrate and potassium nitrate were of an analytical grade and used without further purification. The solvent for extraction, n-hexane, was purified in the usual way.

Measurements of the Solubility. All the experiments were carried out in the dark.

Samples of styrene derivatives $(0.1-1.0~\mathrm{g})$ were added to $20~\mathrm{m}l$ of aqueous silver nitrate solutions of varying silver ion concentrations, all the solutions containing enough potassium nitrate to maintain an ionic strength of unity. The mixtures were shaken vigorously in $50~\mathrm{m}l$ glass-stoppered Erlenmeyer flasks for $3~\mathrm{hr}$ in a constant-temperature bath at $0.00\pm0.05^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$ and $25.00\pm0.05^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$ in order to saturate the aqueous phase with styrenes. It was confirmed that one hour of shaking was sufficient

Table 1. Extinction coefficients of styrene Derivatives in Hexane solution*

	α	α -R-St		β-R-St	trans-β-R-St	
R	$\widetilde{\lambda}_{\mathrm{m}\mu}$	8	λ $m\mu$	ε	$\widetilde{\lambda}_{\mathrm{m}\mu}$	ε
Н	287	3.10×10 ²				
Me	285	1.40×10^{2}	290	1.15×10^{2}	293	6.30×10^{2}
Et	239	$9.52\!\times\!10^{3}$	242	1.29×10^{4}	284	1.10×10^{3}
n-Pr	239	$9.71\!\times\!10^{3}$	242	1.35×10^{4}	251	1.70×104
n-Bu	239	$9.91\!\times\!10^{\rm 3}$	241	1.20×10^{4}	251	1.70×10^{4}
<i>i</i> -Pr	234	$8.36\!\times\!10^{3}$	242	1.24×10^{4}	251	1.62×10^{4}
s-Bu	234	$8.47\!\times\!10^{3}$	242	1.23×10^{4}	251	1.70×104
t-Bu	220	$4.20\!\times\!10^{3}$	220	$3.81\!\times\!10^{\scriptscriptstyle 3}$	251	1.70×104

	$\lambda \\ m \mu$	8
cis-α,β-Dimethyl–St	243	1.22×104
trans-α,β-Dimethyl-St	234	6.83×10^{3}
β,β -Dimethyl–St	244	1.46×10^{4}
Indene	281	3.02×10^{2}
1,2-Dihydronaphthalene	295	4.59×10^{2}

^{*} Slit width 0.30 mm

for the argentation equilibrium to be reached.

After the two phases had been fully separated by being kept standing (5 hr), measured volumes of the saturated aqueous phase were pipetted out and extracted with 5—10 ml portions of hexane by shaking in glass-stoppered flasks for one hour. The optical density of the hexane phase was measured against a hexane blank on a Hitachi Spectrophotometer (EPS-3T) at a wavelength appropriate for each styrene, the molecular extinction coefficients having been previously determined. The spectra were scanned from 210 mu through 360 mu to check the impurity in the solutions. It was also checked whether one extraction for one hour is sufficient for the removal of all of the styrenes, both free and complexed, from the aqueous phase. The volume of the hexane phase was adjusted to obtain the optical density readings between 0.200 and 0.800.

The total styrene concentrations of the saturated aqueous solutions were calculated from the optical density of the hexane solutions. The wavelengths (λ) and the corresponding values of the molecular extinction coefficients (ε) are given in Table 1.

Results

Argentation Constants. According to Andrews and Keefer, 1) the equilibrium reactions of styrenes (St) with the silver ion in the aqueous phase can be explained in terms of these equilibria:

$$Ag^{+} + St = Ag - St^{+}$$

$$K_{1} = [Ag - St^{+}]/[Ag^{+}][St]$$
 (1)
$$Ag^{+} + Ag - St^{+} = Ag_{2} - St^{2+}$$

$$K_2 = [Ag_2 - St^2]/[Ag^+][Ag - St^+]$$
 (2)

here, K_1 and K_2 are the equilibrium constants for the formation of the Ag-St⁺ and Ag₂-St²⁺ complexes respectively.

An additional constant, K, introduced to facilitate the calculations of K_1 and K_2 , is defined as:

$$K = \frac{[St]_t - [St]}{[Ag^+][St]} = K_1 + K_1 K_2 [Ag^+]$$
 (3)

where [St], and [St] are the molar concentrations of all the styrene-containing species and of free styrene respectively, and where [Ag+] is the molar concentration of the free silver ion.

The solubilities were measured for styrene derivatives at 25°C, and the values of K were calculated from Eq. (3). If the equilibria (1) and (2) account for all the complexes formed, and if additional reactions do not contribute appreciably to the complex formation, the plots of K against [Ag+] should give a straight line. This was found to be the case, with reasonable accuracy, for all the styrene derivatives investigated. Figure 1 shows examples of these plots for cis-\beta-alkylstyrenes at 25°C. In such plots the ordinate intercept is K_1 and the slope is K_1K_2 . The values of K_1 and K_2 thus obtained are given in Table 2. These values were determined by the method of leastsquares with an error of about one percent.

J. von Brawn and G. Kirchbaum, Ber., 54, 604 (1921).

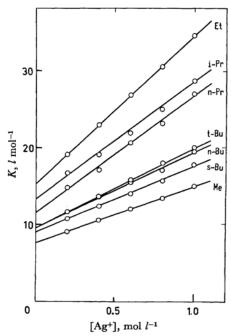


Fig. 1. Plots of K vs. [Ag⁺] for cis-β-R-styrene at 25°C.

Table 2. Argentation constants of styrene derivatives at 25°C in water

	α-R-St		cis-β-R–St		trans-β-R-St	
R	K_1 1/mol	K ₂ 1/mol	K_1 1/mol	K_2 1/mol	K_1 1/mol	K ₂ 1/mol
н	17.4	0.9				
Me	8.2	1.0	7.4	1.0	5.4	0.8
Et	11.1	1.6	15.3	1.3	8.1	1.3
n-Pr	8.2	1.7	11.6	1.3	5.5	1.7
n-Bu	6.5	1.5	8.5	1.1	2.7	1.0
i-Pr	13.6	1.4	13.8	1.1	10.5	0.9
s-Bu	7.0	1.3	8.7	1.0	5.1	0.9
t-Bu	8.6	1.2	9.3	1.1	6.6	1.4

	K_1 1/mol	K_2 1/mol
trans-α,β-Dimethyl-St	3.0	1.3
cis-α,β-Dimethyl-St	5.3	0.7
β,β-Dimethyl–St	5.0	0.8
Indene	8.5	0.9
1,2-Dihydronaphthalene	28.4	1.4

It may be noticed that the values of K_2 are appreciably smaller than the K_1 values and are insensitive to the variation in the structure of styrenes. The values of K_1 which are a measure of the stabilities of the complexes, decrease in this order for a given alkyl:

 $cis-\beta$ -alkylstyrene $>\alpha$ -alkylstyrene $>trans-\beta$ -alkylstyrene

The K_1 value obtained for styrene in our work is in reasonable agreement with the value obtained by Andrews and Keefer.¹⁰⁾ However, the K_1 values for β -methylstyrenes are larger than those given in the literature.2,5) When rectificated samples of β -alkylstyrenes without further purification were used, abnormal peaks of benzaldehyde were found in the ultraviolet spectra of the extracted hexane solutions. Since the solubility of benzaldehyde in the aqueous phase is high, while the equilibrium constant is small, the K_1 values obtained were as small as the values in the literature. Samples which were treated with lithium aluminum hydride in order to remove the benzaldehyde gave smaller solubilities in the aqueous phase and larger K_1 values.

Temperature-dependence. The argentation constants were measured at 0 and 25°C for α -and β -alkylstyrenes. At temperatures higher than 30°C the solutions became turbid and silver metal precipitated during the equilibration, thus precluding measurements.

Listed in Table 3 are the values of K_1 and K_2 obtained at 0°C from the plots described above. The values of K_1 at 0°C are greater than those at

Table 3. Argentation constants of styrene derivatives at 0°C in water

	α-R-St		cis-β-R-St		trans-\beta-R-St	
R	K_1 1/mol	K_2 1/mol	K_1 1/mol	K_2 1/mol	K_1 1/mol	K_2 1/mol
н	36.5	1.2				
Me	22.2	1.1	13.9	1.4	10.3	2.2
Et	18.3	2.4	22.7	2.5	14.7	2.2
n-Pr	19.0	1.7	21.0	1.8	9.7	2.5
n-Bu	13.0	1.7	15.2	1.5	6.4	1.7
i-Pr	33.0	1.3	23.5	1.8	22.6	1.8
s-Bu	13.3	1.7	15.4	1.6	10.2	0.8
t-Bu	14.7	1.8	15.4	2.1	13.0	2.3

TABLE 4. THERMODYNAMIC DATA FOR ARGENTATION
OF STYRENE DERIVATIVES IN WATER

R	$-\overbrace{\Delta H}^{\alpha-R-}$	$-\Delta S$	$cis-\beta-I$ $-\Delta H$	$-\Delta S$		$-\Delta S$
	kcal/mol	e.u.	cal/mo	l e.u. l	kcal/mo	ol e.u.
H	4.9	10.6				
Me	4.9	11.6	4.0	9.2	4.3	11.1
Et	3.0	5.2	2.5	3.1	3.9	8.8
n-Pr	5.4	14.0	3.9	8.1	4.3	11.2
n-Bu	5.0	13.2	4.0	9.2	5.6	16.8
<i>i</i> -Pr	5.7	13.7	3.6	6.8	4.9	11.7
s-Bu	4.0	9.6	4.1	9.5	4.8	12.8
t-Bu	3.7	8.2	3.7	8.0	5.0	13.0

¹⁰⁾ L. J. Andrews and R. M. Keefer, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 72, 5034 (1950).

25°C. These results indicate that the silver ion complexes are stable at lower temperatures.

From the K_1 values at 0 and 25°C, the thermodynamic data for the argentation in water were obtained. Table 4 gives the entropy and enthalpy changes in the argentation for α - and β -alkylstyrenes in water.

Discussion

Alkyl Substituent Effect. It has been established that, in the styrene molecule and in most styrene derivatives, the vinyl group is the center for the coordination of the silver ion. 2,10) On the basis of this consideration, it appears very likely that the K_1 values are related to the nature of the substituent about the double bond of styrenes. The effects of substituents on argentation constants may be divided into the independent contributions of the polar, resonance, and steric effects of the substituents. Thus, Taft's equation can be applied:

$$\log (K/K_0) = \rho^* \sigma^* + \delta E_s + \gamma E_{tt} \tag{4}$$

where σ^* , E_s , and E_{ψ} are the polar, steric, and resonance substituent constants and where ρ^* , δ , and γ are the corresponding reaction parameters. K_0 is the equilibrium constant of a standard reaction (methyl substituent). In Fig. 2, the K_1 values for

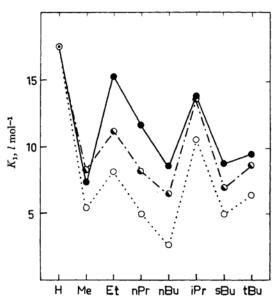


Fig. 2. Argentation constants of styrene derivatives at 25°C.

 \bullet α -R-St, \bullet cis- β -R-St, \bigcirc trans- β -R-St

 α - and β -alkylstyrenes at 25°C are plotted against the alkyl substituents, which are arranged in the increasing order of E_s . The plots shows zigzag curves, although they show similar patterns for the respective series. A similar tendency is shown by

the results of Muhs and Weiss⁶⁾ for alkyl-substituted ethylenes.

Table 5 collects the ultraviolet absorption spectra

TABLE 5. ULTRAVIOLET SPECTRA OF STYRENE DERIVATIVES IN HEXANE

R	α -R-St		cis-β-R–St		$trans-\beta$ -R-St		
	λ_{\max} $m\mu$	$\log \varepsilon_{\max}$	λ_{\max} $m\mu$	$\log arepsilon_{ ext{max}}$	λ_{\max} $m\mu$	log ε _{max}	
Н	244	4.08					
Me	243	4.04	241	4.11	249	4.16	
Et	239	4.03	242	4.11	251	4.19	
n-Pr	239	3.97	242	4.13	251	4.23	
n-Bu	239	3.97	241	4.08	251	4.23	
i-Pr	234	3.86	242	4.09	251	4.21	
s-Bu	234	3.93	242	4.09	251	4.23	
t-Bu	~220	3.62	\sim 220	3.58	251	4.23	

of α - and β -alkylstyrenes. It indicates that, for cis- and trans- β -alkylstyrenes, the extent of conjugation does not change appreciably within each series except for cis- β -t-butylstyrene. This means that the resonance factor varies little within each series. However, in the case of α -alkylstyrenes, the wavelengths of maximum absorption shift lower with an increase in the bulkiness of the alkyl substituents. It is generally known that an increase in the extent of conjugation causes a reduction in K_1 values. It appears, then, that the bulky alkyl groups of α -alkylstyrenes cause an increase in K_1 value as a result of the steric inhibition of conjugation. Table 5 also indicates that the resonance effect of styrene is different from those of alkylstyrenes.

Another important factor affecting the complex formation is the steric effect of the substituents neighboring the double bond. As has previously been mentioned, no correlation between K_1 and E_s can be found in Fig. 2. From Fig. 2 it appears that the K_1 values in each series can be classified into three groups according to the number of α -hydrogen atoms in the alkyl substituent. This classification suggests the effect on argentation of the hyperconjugation of the alkyl group. Therefore, we tried to separate the effects of substituents into the independent contributions of the steric substituents and the hyperconjugation effects of alkyl substituents, as represented by the equation:

$$\log (K/K_0) = \delta E_s^c + h(n-3) \tag{5}$$

where n is the number of α -hydrogen atoms in alkyl groups and where h is an adjustable parameter representing a measure of the hyperconjugation effect. We here used Hancock's E_s^c values¹¹⁾ rather than Taft's E_s values, because the E_s^c values are based upon the quantitative separation of the hyperconjugation effect from Taft's steric

¹¹⁾ C. K. Hancock, E. A. Meyers and B. J. Yager, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 83, 4211 (1961).

substituent constants. The correlation of $\log K_1$ by Eq. (5) gave a good linearity, as is shown in Fig. 3. The h parameter was determined by trial

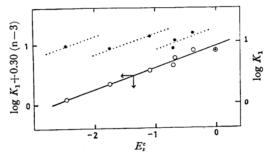


Fig. 3. Relationship between argentation constants of $cis-\beta$ -R-styrene and E_i^c .

and error. The negative value of h in Fig. 3 indicates that the hyperconjugation effect serves to reduce the K_1 value. This is consistent with qualitative recognition that, as has already been mentioned, the conjugation between a substituent and the reaction center causes a reduction in the K_1 value.

The polar effect of substituents on the argentation of benzene derivatives was discussed by Andrews and Keefer¹⁾ in the Hammett ρ - σ relation; they reported a reaction constant ρ =-1.6 for σ _m. Also, the two reaction constants ρ =-0.766²⁾ and ρ =-5.07³⁾ were reported by Fueno *et al.* for ring-substituted styrenes and vinyl compounds respectively. In our case, it is appropriate to discuss the polar effect using the reaction constant of vinyl compounds, ρ =-5.07, in the Hammett ρ - σ _m relation. Table 6 shows only a small difference in

Table 6. Polar and steric substituent constants of alkyl groups

R	σ_m^{a}	$ ho\sigma_m^{\mathrm{b}}$	$h(n-3)^{c}$	$E_{s^{c \; \mathrm{d}}}$
Me	-0.069	0.35	0.00	0.00
Et	-0.07	0.35	0.30	-0.38
n-Pr			0.30	-0.67
n-Bu			0.30	-0.70
i-Pr	-0.068	0.34	0.60	-1.08
s-Bu			0.60	-1.74
t-Bu	-0.10	0.51	0.90	-2.46

- a) D. H. McDaniel and H. C. Brown, J. Org. Chem., 23, 420 (1958).
- b) $\rho = -5.07$ from Ref. 3.
- c) h = -0.30 from Fig. 3.
- d) Ref. 11.

the polar substituent effects $\rho \sigma_m$ of alkyl groups; therefore, the polar effect of substituents can be neglected.

It was found that Eq. (5) holds in the case of the argentation of alkenes in ethylene glycol, which has been studied by Muhs and Weiss using gas

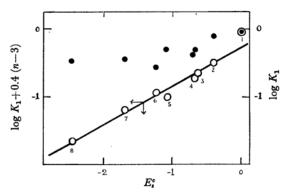


Fig. 4. Relationship between argentation constants of 1-alkene and E_i^s at 40°C. R-CH=CH₂: 1. Me 2. Et 3. n-Pr 4. n-Bu 5. i-Pr 6. i-Bu 7. s-Bu 8. t-Bu

chromatography (Fig. 4).⁶⁾ The substituent effect of alkenyl alkyl ethers on the argentation, which was investigated by Fueno *et al.*,⁴⁾ may be interpreted in a similar manner.

The same treatment as in Fig. 3 was also applied to α - and β -alkylstyrenes; all the results are given in Fig. 5. The slope of these straight lines corre-

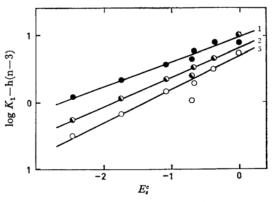


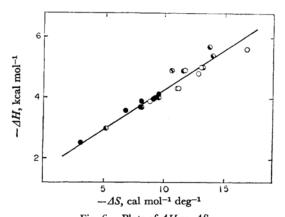
Fig. 5. Relationship between argentation constants of styrene derivatives and E_s.
1. cis-β-R-St
2. α-R-St
3. trans-β-R-St

sponds to the δ parameter, the steric reaction constant. Figure 5 indicates that the δ parameters of cis- β - and trans- β -alkylstyrenes are practically the same. Figure 5 also indicates that the δ parameter of the α -alkyl series is nearly equal to that of the β -alkyl series. However, since the α -alkyl groups exhibit a steric inhibition of resonance, as has been shown above, the real steric effect of the α -alkyl-styrene series must be larger than the apparent value.

As has already been mentioned, Table 2 (or Fig. 5) shows a reasonable difference in the K_1 values of α -, $cis-\beta$ -, and $trans-\beta$ -alkylstyrenes for a given alkyl. In the previous discussion using Eq. (4), the resonance factor was assumed to be

constant within each series except the α -alkylstyrene series. When we compare the α -series, the cis- β -series, and the trans- β -series using the same equation, however, the difference in the resonance factor should be considered. The difference in the resonance factor between the three series corresponds to the large distance between the experimental lines of the α -, the cis- β -, and the trans- β -series in Fig. 5.

In order to obtain further information regarding the nature of the complexation of styrene derivatives, the thermodynamic data, ΔH and ΔS , for



complexation were evaluated from the K_1 values at 0 and 25°C. No simple relation between the ΔH (or ΔS) and $E_s{}^c$ values of the substituent groups was found. However, as is shown in Fig. 6, a linear correlation was found to exist between ΔH and ΔS (isokinetic relationship); the plots for α -, cis- β - and trans- β -series fell on the same line, in contrast with the case of alkenyl alkyl ethers. The isokinetic temperature, 250°K, was obtained from the slope of the straight line. Since the measurements of the argentation constants were carried out above the isokinetic temperature, the entropy factor is considered to be more important than the enthalpy in this equilibrium.

Argentation Constants of the Other Styrene Derivatives. Further substitution of methyl groups at the double bond slightly influenced the K_1 values. Table 2 indicates that the K_1 values for cis- α,β -dimethylstyrene, and β,β -dimethylstyrene are nearly equal to the K_1 value of trans- β -methylstyrene, although smaller than those of α - and cis- β -methylstyrenes. This is considered to be due to the fact that the inhibition of conjugation between the benzene ring and the double bond is more important than the steric effect in the complex formation of those styrenes.

Considering the structure and the strain of the olefin, the K_1 value of indene is reasonable. However, the very large K_1 value of 1,2-dihydronaphthalene was unexpected from the structure of this molecule.