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# Solubility of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  in methanol, ethanol, 1,2propanediol and glycerol from 283.15 K to 373.15 K and up to 6.0 MPa

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ABSTRACT:

Capture, storage and valorisation of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  are efficient solutions to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gas. To improve these t echnologies, there is a need to have a good knowledge of the interactions between  $CO_2$  and some current solvents. In this article, the solubility of  $CO_2$  in methanol , ethanol and 1,2-propanediol is measured by a constant-volume method for temperatures between  $283.15$  K and  $373.15$  K and for pressures below 6.0 MPa. The same method is used for glycerol for pressures up to 2.0 MPa . For all of the studied solvents, the solubil ity increases when t emperature decreases and when pressure increases. No l it erature data was available for this wide range of temperature for ethanol, methanol, 1,2-propanediol and glycerol . Henry's law constants are calculated for each t emperature and are compared between to one another. The solubility of  $CO_2$  in these solvents increases in the following order: glycerol  $\lt$ 1,2-pr opanediol  $\lt$  methanol  $\approx$  ethanol.

#### 1. Introduct ion

With 34 G emitted each year in the atmosphere, carbon dioxide is the most human emitted greenhouse gases in the world. These emissions are increasing due to an economic and demographic growth, which impl ies an el evat ion of the consumpt ion of fossil energy[1]. The el evat ion of the global temperature can reach up to  $+5$  °C in 2100 if these emissions are not l imit ed. Ca pture and storage of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  have r eceived a lot of attent ion as a solut ion to reduce these emissions<sup>[2]</sup>. In addition, to face up to the rarefact ion of fossil fuels and in a per spective of circular economy, the valor isation of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  is developing. In this new chemistry,  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  is no more seen as a waste but as a source of carbon used to pr oduce value-added chemicals[3]. However , only few exampl es are developed on the industr ial scale.

In this context, our work is focused on the synthesis of organic carbonate by associating  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ with alcohol or diol or glycerol. The main carbonates that could be obtained are dimethylcarbonate, diethylcarbonate, propylene carbonate or glycerol carbonate. Due to their very low toxicity, they have many potent ial a ppl icat ions l ike fuel addit ive, solvent or monomer [4]. Currently, they are produced by using some toxic and harmful components like phosgene. The synthesis via the route  $(CO_2 + \text{alcohol})$  has been proven to be the more interesting concerning the environmental aspect and the sequestration of  $CO<sub>2</sub>[5]$ .

Many homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysts have been tested for this synthesis [6,7]. Some of them give high select ivity but the yield is st ill low because of the unfavourable ther modynamics of the reaction. Chemical reactions take place at about  $373.15$  K and pressure unt il 6.0 MPa. To study the kinetics of this reaction, it is important to take into account the data of phase equil ibr ia in these condit ions.

The aim of this article is to provide a wide range of solubility of carbon dioxide in four different solvents: methanol, ethanol, 1,2-propanediol and glycerol. The experiments are performed by a constant-volume method at temperatures between 283.15 K and 373.15 K and pr essures up to 6.0 MPa for methanol, ethanol and 1,2-propanediol. This range of temperature is higher than the one shown in l iterature data. The solubil ity of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  in glycerol is measured with the same method and for pressures below 2.0 MPa. Only one data set is available in the literature for this range of pressure [8]. The original ity of this paper is to present new relevant data about  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  solubil ity into alcohols.

#### 2. Experimental

#### 2.1.Mater ials.

The source and the pur ity of all compounds used are described in Table 1. All the chemicals are used as r eceived. Water contents of ethanol , methanol , 1,2-propanediol and glycerol were deter mined using Metrohm Karl Fischer coulometer 899t itrator.





<sup>a</sup> The purity was provided by the supplier

Table 1. Chemical compounds used in this study.

2.2 Apparatus

Figure 1 represents a schematic diagram of the apparatus used to measure the solubility. The exper iments were carr ied out in a stainless st eel cell from Mettler -Tol edo with a ca pacity of 1.61 L  $(\pm 0.01)$ . The cell was equipped with two temperature sensors, one for the liquid in the vessel (Tr) and one for the jacket (Tj). A heat carried fluid circulated through the jacket to regulate the t emperature in the vessel with an accuracy of  $\pm 0.01$  K. The pressure inside the cell was also measured by a pressure gauge with an accuracy of  $\pm$  0.01 bar. An anchor type agitator was used to st ir the solution at about 300 r pm. This kind of reactor is described in more detail by



Figure 1. Schemat ic diagram of the a pparatus: 1. cell , 2. jacket , 3. vacuum connector , 4. event valve, 5. st irrer, 6.1 iquid inlet, 7.1 iquid outlet, 8. buffer tank, 9.  $CO_2$  gas cylinder

Balland *et al.* [9].

The  $CO_2$  cylinder was connected to a stainless steel buffer tank with a capacity of  $2.12$  L  $(± 0.01 L)$ . The temperature (Tb) and pressure (Pb) of this buffer tank were recorded with two sensors with accuracies of  $\pm 0.01$  K and  $\pm 0.01$  bar respectively. A valve controlled the injection of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  from the buffer tank to the cell. All the temperatures and pressures measured during the exper iments were recorded cont inuously using an acquisit ion system.

2.3 Experimental procedure.

Before each experiment, an amount of nitrogen was injected in the cell and the pressure was recorded during 2 hours to test the gas leakage of the apparatus. Then, the cell was emptied with a vacuum pump to 100 Pa. The temperature in the cell was maintained at 283.15 K and around 800 mL of solvent were injected into the cell through the l iquid inlet . The exact weight of the solvent injected,  $m_s$  was measured, with an accuracy of  $\pm$  0.2 g, by a double weighing of the bottle containing the solvent : before and after the injection. The mixture was stirred during all the exper iment at around 300 r pm. The cell was empt ied again with the vacuum pump to be sure that there is no inert gas in the cell. The buffer tank was purged with  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  three times and then it was filled with  $CO_2$ . After few minutes the pressure and the temperature in the buffer tank were constant. An amount of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  was injected in the cell to obtain a pproximately 0.1 MPa, the temperature in the cell was maintained at 283.15 K. When the pressure and temperature were stabil ised, the temperature was raised from 283.15 K up to 373.15 K by step of 10 K. At each step, we considered that the equil ibrium was reached when the pressure was constant. The stabil isat ion per iod to reach this equil ibr ium depended on the solvent used: for the ethanol , methanol and 1,2-propanediol the stabilisation time was about 50 minutes. A total of 150 minutes was used for the glycerol because the absorption of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  in glycerol is a very slow pr ocess. At the end of the exper iments, three other steps at 343.15 K, 313.15 K and 283.15 K were made to control the repeatability. Thanks to this method, we insured that there is no leakage, that  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  did not react with the solvent and that the stabil isation time was sufficiently



long. When the temperature in the cell came back to 283.15 K, the pressure was increased by introducing  $CO_2$  again. Several injections of  $CO_2$  were made for each solvent. The temperature and pressure in the cell recorded during all the experiments are plotted in Figure 2 for the 1,2pr opanediol . Figure 2: Evolutions of temperature  $(-)$  and pressure  $(-)$  in the cell during the experiment in 1,2-propanediol

- 3. Results and discussion
- 3.1 Calculation of the solubility

The  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  solubil ity in the solvent is expressed using the mole fract ion:

$$
x = \frac{n_{CO2}^{sol}}{n_{CO2}^{sol} + n_s}
$$
 Eq 1

introduced in the cell which is calculated as :

$$
n_s = \frac{m_s}{M_s} \tag{Eq 2}
$$

Her e *m<sup>s</sup>* corresponds to the mass of solvent injected in the cell and *M<sup>s</sup>* is the molar mass of the solvent .

The moles of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  absorbed in the solvent are calculated by a mass balance:

$$
n_{CO_2}^{sol} = n_{CO_2}^{inj} - n_{CO_2}^{Eq}
$$
 Eq 3

 $n_{CO_2}^{Eq}$  is the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> at the equil ibrium in the gas phase in the cell.

 $n_{CO_2}^{inj}$  is calculated by the difference of the amount of  $CO_2$  in the buffer tank before the inject ion  $(n_{CO_2}^1)$  and after the inject ion  $(n_{CO_2}^2)$ :

$$
n_{CO_2}^{inj} = n_{CO_2}^1 - n_{CO_2}^2
$$
 Eq 4

All the amounts of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  in the cell and in the buffer tank were calculated by using the Peng-Robinson equat ion of state[10]:

$$
P_{CO_2} = \frac{RT_r}{v - b} - \frac{\alpha(T_r)a}{v^2 + 2vb - b^2}
$$
 Eq 5

The *Tr* r epresent s the temperature of the cell and  $\nu$  is the molar volume of CO<sub>2</sub>. *a* and *b* are two constants calculated with the following equations:

$$
a = \Omega_a \frac{R^2 T_c^2}{P_c}
$$
 Eq 6

$$
b = \Omega_b \frac{RT_c}{P_c}
$$
 Eq 7

### $\Omega_a = 0.457$ ,  $\Omega_b = 0.07780$ ;

 $T_c = 304.25$  K and  $P_c = 7.382$  MPa are the cr it ical temperature and pressure of CO<sub>2</sub>.  $\alpha(Tr)$  is a function of the temperature inside the cell and of the CO<sub>2</sub> acentric factor which is equal to 0.228:

$$
\alpha(T_r) = [1 + m(1 - (T_r/T_c)^2)]^2
$$
 Eq 8

$$
m = 0.374640 + 1.542260\omega - 0.26992\omega^2
$$
 Eq 9

We assumed that liquids are ideal and follow the Raoult's law to calculate the partial pressure of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  at each equil ibrium in the cell :

$$
P_{CO_2} = P_{cell} - P_{liq}^s (1 - x)
$$
 Eq 10

where  $P_{cell}$  represents the pressure measured in the cell by the transducer and  $P_{liq}^s$  corresponds to the saturated va pour pressure of the solvent calculated for each t emperature in Table 2 using the Antoine's equat ion. The Antoine's coefficients are r eported in Table 3. These calculated saturated vapour pressures are in good agreement with literature data [11–13]. The vapour pressures of ethanol in this range of temperature were measured in the cell to ensure that the residual pressure correspond to these calculated vapour pressures.



Table 2. Saturated vapour pressure of methanol, ethanol and 1,2-propanediol for temperatures

from 283.15 K to 373.15 K

|                    | Temperature/ $K$  | A       | В        | $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{C}}$ | References |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
|                    |                   |         |          |                             |            |
| Met hanol          | $283.15 - 373.15$ | 5.20409 | 1581.341 | $-33.5$                     | $[14]$     |
| Et hanol           | $283.15 - 343.15$ | 5.37229 | 1670.409 | $-40.191$                   | [15]       |
|                    | $343.15 - 373.15$ | 5.24677 | 1598.673 | $-46.424$                   | [14]       |
| $1,2$ -propanediol | $323.15 - 373.15$ | 6.07936 | 2692.187 | $-17.94$                    | [16]       |

Table 3. Antoine's coefficients[17] used to calculate the saturated va pour pressure of methanol, ethanol and 1,2-propanediol with the following equation, with  $P_{liq}^s$  in bar and *T* in K:

$$
Log(P_{liq}^S) = A - \frac{B}{T+C}
$$

#### 3.2. Rel iabil  $i$ y of the apparatus

The standard uncertainty of the solubil ity for each equil ibrium was calculated from:

$$
\frac{\delta x}{x} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\delta(n_{CO_2}^{sol})}{n_{CO_2}^{sol}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\delta(n_{CO_2}^{sol} + n_{liq})}{n_{CO_2}^{sol} + n_{liq}}\right)^2}
$$
\n
$$
= \sqrt{\left(\frac{\delta(n_{CO_2}^{inj})^2 + \delta(n_{CO_2}^{Eq})^2}{n_{CO_2}^{sol}}\right) + \left(\frac{\delta(n_{CO_2}^{inj})^2 + \delta(n_{CO_2}^{Eq})^2 + \delta(n_{liq})^2}{(n_{CO_2}^{sol} + n_{liq})^2}\right)}
$$
\nEq 11

$$
\frac{\delta(n_{CO_2}^i)}{n_{CO_2}^i} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\delta(P_i)}{P_i}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\delta(V_i)}{V_i}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\delta(T_i)}{T_i}\right)^2}
$$
 Eq 12

where *Pi*, *Ti* and *Vi* correspond respect ively to the pressure, temperature and volume of CO<sub>2</sub> at the equil ibrium in the cell for  $\delta(n_{CO_2}^{Eq})$  and in the buffer tank before injection for  $\delta(n_{CO_2}^{inj})$ .

And  $\eta$ ) is est imated by:

$$
\delta(n_s) = \frac{\delta(m_s)}{M_s}
$$
 Eq 13

3.3. Results and discussion

Table 4 to Table 7 r eport the part ial pressure of  $CO_2$  at the equil ibrium  $P_{CO2}$ , the solubility *x* and the est imated standard uncertainties  $x$  for the absorpt ion of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  in ethanol, methanol, 1,2propanediol and glycerol. The calculated standard uncertainties are below  $2.0 \times 10^{-3}$ , which represents mainly  $(1-2)$  % of the values of solubility for each solvent.

Figure 3 to Figure 6 r epresent the partial pressure of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  plotted against the solubil ity for the four solvents for each temperature. As expected, the solubil ity for each solvent increases when the pressure increases but decreases when the temperature increases. In the temperature and pr essure ranges studied, linear plots are obtained between partial pressure of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and solubility. For ethanol, methanol, 1,2-propanediol and glycerol, the correlation coefficients obtained for each t emperature were higher than 0.997. In our range of t emperature and pressure, the solubil ity of  $CO_2$  is proportional to the pressure of the gas over the solvent, according to the Henry's law:

$$
P_{\rm CO2} = k_{\rm Hx} \qquad \qquad \text{Eq } 14
$$

The  $k_H$  r epresents the Henry's law constant. It refers to the slope of the line  $P_{CO2}$  to *x*. All the Henry's law coefficients are reported in Table 8. Compar isons of the Henry's law constants obtained in this work and in the literature are represented in Figure 7 and Figure 8 where  $k_H$  is pl otted against the temperature for methanol and ethanol. The solubility of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  in methanol is the most studied alcohol, the data of eleven articles are plotted in Figure 7. [18–28]. For ethanol, the compar ison with seven art icles is made in Figur e 8 [21,25,26,29–32].These data are in good agreement with our results, this compar ison val idates our method to measure solubil ity. It can be seen in Figure 7 and Figure 8 that Henry's law constant is generally determined for temperatures lower than 353.15 K, so our work pr esents new values of solubil ity for higher temperatures up to 373.15 K.

Only two articles have been found about the solubil ity of  $CO_2$  in 1,2-propanediol [25,33]. The

Henry's law constants in t hese two works are different as we can see in Figure 9. Our work is closer to the r esults obtained by Galvao *et al.*[33] than to the results from Gui *et al.*[25]. This difference can be explained by the degassing of the solvent . Indeed, Galvao *et al.* used a method to degas the solvent before it is used, so they did not consider any inert gas. On the contrary, Gui *et al.* did not use any degassing method but consider ed an a mount of inert gas. This gas could have an impact on the solubility of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ , which could explain this difference. In our work, we also degassed our solvent by evacuat ing the cell when the solvent was inside. Thanks to this method, we ensured that no inert gas interacted with the solubil isation of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  in the solvent. This difference in the methodology could explain why our results are close to the results of Galvao *et al.* In some other works, researchers studied the solubility of 1,2-propanediol in supercritical carbon dioxide [34] or the phase equil ibria for temperature higher than 373.15 K [35]. These results are not comparable to ours.

For glycerol, only one literature r eference has been found which is represented in Figure 10 [8]. The Henry's law constants obtained by Ostonen *et al.* are very similar to our results. Some other paper s studied the solubility of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  in glycerol but for higher pressures [36–38], where the Henry's law is not applicable.

All the Henry's law constants for the four solvents are reported in Table 8 and plotted in Figure 10. Methanol and ethanol have a similar behaviour toward the solubility of  $CO_2$ .  $CO_2$  is less soluble in 1,2-propanediol and very slightly soluble in glycerol. These results are in agreement with the explanation given in previous studies [25,39] where the solubility of a gas in a solvent is divided in two main steps: first, the interactions solvent-solvent must be broken to create cavit ies, and then the solute molecules must fill these cavit ies with t he interact ion solutesolvent. In our case, we have two alcohols, 1,2-propanediol with two hydroxyl groups and

glycerol with three hydroxyl groups. This difference in the structure of molecules can explain the difference observed in the solubility of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ . Indeed, the hydroxyl groups can form internal hydrogen bond, so glycol which has 3 hydroxyl groups has a better internal interact ion than 1,2 propanediol. That could explain why it absorbes less  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  than 1,2-propanediol. Similarly, the int ernal interact ions of 1,2-pr opanediol are stronger than the interact ions between alcohols.



Figure 3. Pressure-solubility diagram for  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and liquid methanol at different temperatures,  $\bullet$ , T = 283.15 K;  $\bullet$ , T = 293.15 K;  $\bullet$ , T = 303.15 K;  $\bullet$ , T = 313.15 K; O, T = 323.15 K;  $\Box$ , T = 333.15 K;  $\Diamond$ , T = 343.15 K;  $\Delta$ , T = 353.15 K; +, T = 363.15 K;  $\times$ , T = 373.15 K. P<sub>CO2</sub> is the part ial pr essure of  $CO_2$  in the cell at the equil ibrium, and x is the mole fraction of  $CO_2$  in the liquid phase.



Figure 4. Pressure-solubility diagram for  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and liquid ethanol at different temperatures,  $\bullet$ , T = 283.15 K;  $\blacksquare$ , T = 293.15 K;  $\spadesuit$ , T = 303.15 K;  $\spadesuit$ , T = 313.15 K; O, T = 323.15 K;  $\Box$ , T = 333.15 K;  $\Diamond$ , T = 343.15 K;  $\Delta$ , T = 353.15 K; +, T = 363.15 K;  $\times$ , T = 373.15 K. P<sub>CO2</sub> is the part ial pressure of  $CO_2$  in the cell at the equil ibrium, and x is the mole fraction of  $CO_2$  in the liquid



 $\Box$ , T = 333.15 K;  $\Diamond$ , T = 343.15 K;  $\Delta$ , T = 353.15 K; +, T = 363.15 K;  $\times$ , T = 373.15 K. P<sub>CO2</sub> is the part ial pressure of  $CO_2$  in the cell at the equil ibrium, and x is the mole fraction of  $CO_2$  in the liquid



Figure 6. Pressure-solubility diagram for  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and liquid glycerol at different temperatures, O, T = 323.15 K;  $\times$ , T = 333.15 K; +, T = 343.15 K;  $\Delta$ , T = 353.15 K;  $\Diamond$ , T = 363.15 K;  $\Box$ , T = 373.15 K. P<sub>CO2</sub> is the part ial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> in the cell at the equil ibrium, and x is the mole fract ion of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  in the liquid phase.



<sup>a</sup> Standard uncertainties u are  $u(P_{CO2}) = 1$  Pa and  $u(T) = 0.01$  K

Table 4. Part ial pressure of  $CO_2$  ( $P_{CO2}$ ), solubil ity (*x*) and standard uncertaint ies (x) of  $CO_2$  in liquid methanol from 283.15 K to 373.15 K at the equil ibrium<sup>a</sup>.



<sup>a</sup> Standard uncertainties u are  $u(P_{CO2}) = 1$  Pa and  $u(T) = 0.01$  K

Table 5. Part ial pressure of  $CO_2$  ( $P_{CO2}$ ), solubil ity (*x*) and standard uncertaint ies (x) of  $CO_2$  in liquid ethanol from 283.15 K to 373.15 K at the equil ibrium<sup>a</sup>.



<sup>a</sup> Standard uncertainties u are  $u(P_{CO2}) = 1$  Pa and  $u(T) = 0.01$  K

Table 6. Part ial pressure of  $CO_2$  ( $P_{CO2}$ ), solubil ity (*x*) and standard uncertaint ies (x) of  $CO_2$  in l iquid 1,2- propanediol

![](_page_18_Picture_238.jpeg)

<sup>a</sup> Standard uncertainties u are  $u(P_{CO2}) = 1$  Pa and  $u(T) = 0.01$  K

Table 7. Part ial pressure of  $CO_2$  ( $P_{CO2}$ ), solubil ity (*x*) and standard uncertaint ies (x) of  $CO_2$  in

![](_page_18_Picture_239.jpeg)

l iquid glycerol from  $323.15$  K to  $373.15$  K at the equil ibrium<sup>a</sup>.

Henry's law constants 10  $k_H/MPa$ 

![](_page_19_Figure_0.jpeg)

Table 8. Henry's law constants  $k_H$  for methanol, ethanol, 1,2-propanediol and glycerol from 283.15 Kto 373.15 K

Figure 7. Henry's law constant  $k_H$  of CO<sub>2</sub> in liquid methanol versus t emperature: Ohgaki *et al.* (1976)[18] ; Hong *et al.* (1988)[19] ; Chang *et al.* (1997)[20] ; + Joung *et al.* (2001)[21] ; ⤬ Bezanehtak *et al.* (2002)[22];  $\blacklozenge$  Schwinghammer *et al.* (2006)[23];  $\Box$  Secuianu *et al.* (2009)[24] **■Gui** *et al.* (2011)[25]; O Kariznovi *et al.* (2013)[26]; \* Leu *et al.* (1991)[27]; -

![](_page_19_Figure_3.jpeg)

Miyano *et al.* (2004)[28]; ● this study (2019)

Figure 8. Henry's law constant  $k_H$  of CO<sub>2</sub> in liquid ethanol versus temperature: Joung *et al.*  $(2001)[21]$ ; O Dal molin *et al.*  $(2006)[30]$ ; Secuianu *et al.*  $(2008)[29]$ ;  $\Box$  Gui *et al.* (2011)[25] ; Kar iznovi *et al.* (2013) [26]; +Gal icia -Luna *et al.* (2000)[31]; ⤬ Fr iend *et al.*

![](_page_20_Figure_2.jpeg)

Figure 9. Henry's law constant  $k_H$  of CO<sub>2</sub> in liquid 1,2-propanediol versus temperature:  $\blacksquare$ 

![](_page_20_Figure_4.jpeg)

calculated from Galvao *et al.* (2010)[33] Gui *et al.* (2011)[25] t his study (2019) Figure 10. Henry's law constant  $k_H$  of CO<sub>2</sub> in liquid glycerol versus t emperature: Ostonen *et al.* (2014)[8] ● this study (2019)

![](_page_21_Figure_1.jpeg)

Figure 11. Henry's law constant  $k_H$  of CO2 in liquid methanol ( $\triangle$ ), liquid ethanol ( $\triangle$ ), liquid 1,2-propanediol  $(\blacksquare)$  and liquid glycerol  $(\blacklozenge)$  versus t emperature.

#### 4. Conclusions

The solubil ity of  $CO_2$  in methanol, ethanol and 1,2-propanediol was measured from 283.15 K to 373.15 K and up to 6.0 MPa. In glycerol, a temperature range of 323.15 K to 373.15 K was studied up to 2.0 MPa . The constant -volume method used in this work is val idated by compar ison with literature. For each solvent, the solubility of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  increases with a decrease of temperature and with an increase of pr essure. Henry's law constant was calculated for each temperature and for each solvent, the solubility increases in this order: glycerol  $\langle 1,2-1\rangle$ pr opanediol < methanol , ethanol . These differences can be explained by the different structures of the solvents.

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