Surface Tensions and Surface Segregation of n-Butanol in Sulfuric Acid†

Ryan D. Torn and Gilbert M. Nathanson*

Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1101 University Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Received: January 28, 2002

The surface tensions of n-butanol in water and 20, 38, 58, and 72 wt % H₂SO₄ were recorded at 294 K in order to compare the segregation of the alcohol at the water–air and acid–air interfaces. The surface tensions of each solution decrease steadily as butanol is added, yielding nearly constant surface concentrations of butyl-containing species between 0.2 and 0.4 M butanol. These surface concentrations range from ~3.5 × 10⁻¹⁴ cm⁻² (~73% of maximum packing) at the surface of water to ~2.0 × 10⁻¹⁴ cm⁻² (~41% of maximum packing) at the surface of 72 wt % H₂SO₄. The reduction in surface coverage with increasing acidity may be driven by butanol protonation, changes in solvent size, and the conversion of butanol to C₄H₉OSO₃H and C₆H₆OSO₃⁻. The alcohol surface coverage on 72 wt % acid is nearly doubled by cooling the acid from 294 to 208 K or by substituting n-hexanol for n-butanol.

Introduction

Many organic molecules containing polar and nonpolar groups segregate to the surface of water,¹² often forming compact hydrocarbon films that impede gas transport through the interface.³ The composition and packing of these films may differ significantly in environments where the water is acidic.⁴ Water droplets in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere, for example, often contain sulfuric acid at concentrations of 40–80 wt % H₂SO₄ and temperatures of 210–240 K.⁵,⁶ These acid aerosols may be exposed to organic surfactants⁷,⁸ that segregate to the surface of the particles, potentially altering the rates of gas dissolution and reaction.⁵,⁹ In particular, the evaporation of water from sulfuric acid aerosols and the reaction of these aerosol particles with ammonia are impeded by monolayer and multilayer organic films.¹⁰–¹³

As a further step toward investigating organic surfactants in sulfuric acid,¹⁴ we have measured the surface tensions of n-butanol in water and 20, 38, 58, and 72 wt % H₂SO₄, where the extent of surface segregation can be determined from the Gibbs adsorption equation. Although butanol molecules are not long enough to form an effective surfactant barrier,³ their high solubility and absence of aggregation⁵ make the alcohol useful for exploring how protonation and reaction in sulfuric acid control the formation of a surface hydrocarbon layer. We hope to use these surface tension measurements to determine coverages of longer chain alcohols on sulfuric acid for molecular beam studies of reactive gases scattering from the surfactant-coated acid.

The extent of alcohol segregation will be governed in part by the bulk and surface properties of sulfuric acid. For the four acid concentrations employed here, 20, 38, 58, and 72 wt % H₂SO₄, the bulk composition is dominated by H₂O, HSO₄⁻, and H₂O⁺, with less than 3% SO₄²⁻ and very little molecular H₂SO₄.¹⁶ Over the 0–72 wt % acid range, the H⁺ activity increases by a factor of 10¹¹, reflecting the enormous protonating power of the acid.¹⁶ At 294 K, the surface tensions of the H₂SO₄–H₂O mixtures rise from 73 dyn cm⁻¹ for pure water to 76 dyn cm⁻¹ for 45 wt % H₂SO₄ and then drop to 74 dyn cm⁻¹ for 72 wt % H₂SO₄.¹⁷ A Gibbs adsorption analysis based on water vapor pressures indicates that H₂SO₄ is depleted at the surface by less than 1 × 10⁻¹³ cm⁻² below ~50 wt % acid (a 1% reduction) and is in excess by no more than 5 × 10⁻¹² cm⁻² above this concentration.¹⁸ Auger electron spectroscopy confirms that the atom composition of the surface and bulk are nearly equal.¹⁹ In addition, sum frequency studies suggest that the surface species are either neutral H₂O and H₂SO₄ or closely spaced ion pairs.¹⁸,²⁰

Alcohols are readily protonated in sulfuric acid and may react further in solution to produce alkyl hydrogen sulfate, ROSO₂H, and dialkyl sulfate, (RO)₂SO₂, according to the equilibria:²¹–²⁴

\[ \begin{align*}
H_2SO_4 + H_2O & \rightleftharpoons HSO_4^- + H_3O^+ \\
HSO_4^- + H_2O & \rightleftharpoons SO_4^{2-} + H_3O^+ \\
ROH + H_3O^+ & \rightleftharpoons ROH_2^+ + H_2O \\
HSO_4^- + ROH + H_2O & \rightleftharpoons ROSO_2H + 2H_2O \\
ROSO₂H + H_2O & \rightleftharpoons ROSO₃⁻ + H_2O⁺ \\
ROSO₂H + ROH & \rightleftharpoons (RO)₂SO₂ + H_2O
\end{align*} \]

¹³C NMR studies of methanol, ethanol, and n-propanol in sulfuric acid indicate that protonation (step 1c) generates ROH₂⁺ equal in concentration to ROH in 76–78 wt % H₂SO₄.²⁵,²⁶ Iraci, Essin, and Golden found that both protonation and low temperatures enhance the reversible solvation of methanol under conditions where steps d and f are expected to be slow.²⁷ In particular, they showed that the solubility of methanol rises from 10⁵ to 10⁶ M/atm as the acid concentration is increased from 45 to 70 wt % H₂SO₄ and the temperature is lowered from 231 to 197 K. Kane and Leu further showed that CH₃OSO₂H (step d) could be detected in the vapor over 40–85 wt % H₂SO₄ at 295 K,²⁸ and they postulated that the formation of (CH₃O)₂SO₂ (step f) becomes important in 75–85 wt % acid.²⁹ In addition, ethyl hydrogen sulfate has been monitored by ¹H NMR and by oxidative titration in >50 wt % H₂SO₄; roughly equal fractions...

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¹ Part of the special issue “John C. Tully Festschrift”.  
*To whom correspondence should be addressed.
of CH₃CH₂OSO₃H and CH₃CH₂OH are observed in the 75 wt % acid at 298 K. The sulfuric acid esters are expected to be strong acids and should be partially dissociated into ROSO₃⁻ and H₂O⁺ in sulfuric acid–water mixtures (step e). The rates of methanol, ethanol, and butanol esterification are reported to occur over times of ~1–10 h in 70 wt % acid at room temperature and over longer times at lower acid concentrations and temperatures (see ref 29 for measurements of higher methanol reaction rates).

On the basis of these studies, we expect that butanol will undergo protonation and esterification in concentrated sulfuric acid solutions and, therefore, that butyl species segregating to the surface of the acid will be a mixture of C₄H₉OH, C₄H₉OH₂⁺, C₄H₉OSO₃H, C₄H₉OSO₃⁻, and possibly (C₄H₉O)₂SO₃. The surface tension measurements do not readily distinguish among these species, but the experiments below indicate that the total surface concentration of butyl species decreases steadily with increasing acidity. This reduction in surface coverage may be caused by the conversion of C₄H₉OH to C₄H₉OSO₃H at higher acidities, by changes in solvent size, and by charge repulsion among the ionic species C₄H₉OH₂⁺ or C₄H₉OSO₃⁻.

**Experimental Section**

The Wilhelmy plate method was used to measure the surface tensions γ of 0.1 M n-butanol in 0, 20, 38, 58, and 72 wt % H₂SO₄ at 294 °C and of 0.07 M n-hexanol in 72 wt % acid. The downward force on a 3.36 cm perimeter platinum plate was measured using a balance with a precision of 0.1 mg (0.05%). The contact angle was observed to be nearly zero for each solution. All measurements were made in a closed environment purged with N₂ to minimize water uptake. The solutions were prepared from doubly distilled sulfuric acid (GFS Chemicals), Millipore water, and ACS or spectroscopic grade butanol and hexanol (HPLC grade butanol was found to contain surface-active impurities). Typically, 50 μL of n-butanol were stirred into a 50 mL acid sample contained in a 5.5 cm diam by 4.5 cm tall Teflon flask. After each addition, the Pt plate was submersed in the acid and stabilized for five minutes before three consecutive measurements were recorded over a fifteen minute period. Typically, 7 h were required to make a complete set of surface tension measurements. The maximum spread in values was usually ±0.3 dyn cm⁻¹. We also found that solutions prepared by adding butanol in one aliquot rather than through successive addition yielded the same surface tension values. Last, the surface tension of a 0.2 M butanol/72 wt % acid solution did not change by more than ±0.3 dyn cm⁻¹ during a 4 h time period, indicating that further esterification did not measurably alter the surface tension over this time. The miscibility of n-butanol in water is limited to 1.0 M, but it appears to be miscible in 72 wt % H₂SO₄ in all proportions.

We also recorded the surface tension of n-butanol in 72 wt % H₂SO₄ cooled to 208 K with a dry-ice–ethanol bath. The viscosity of the supercooled acid at 208 K is 8000 cP, making it difficult to submerge and stabilize the Pt plate. Stable readings were obtained instead by submerging a 0.083 cm diam Pt wire, which has a perimeter 13 times smaller than the plate. These measurements were recorded by adding butanol to the cold acid over a 7 h time period, during which significant esterification may not have occurred.

**Surface Tensions and Surface Segregation of n-Butanol in Sulfuric Acid**

Figure 1 displays the surface tensions of 0–0.4 M n-butanol in water and 38, 58, and 72 wt % sulfuric acid. The values decrease steadily as butanol is added to each solution, but they remain above the pure butanol surface tension of 25 dyn cm⁻¹. The minimum 39 dyn cm⁻¹ surface tension for 0.4 M butanol in pure water drops to 36 dyn cm⁻¹ for 38 wt % H₂SO₄ and then rises to 45 dyn cm⁻¹ for the 72 wt % acid. The surface tensions of the butanol–water solutions in the top panel are nearly identical to earlier measurements by Posner et al. (+ symbols); Harkins and Wampler; Addison; Dynarowicz; and Donaldson and Anderson. The surface excess of butyl-containing species in each solution is calculated from the Gibbs adsorption equation at constant temperature, −dγ = ∑ᵢ₌₂⁻¹ \( \Gamma_i \langle H_i \rangle \) dμᵢ, where μᵢ is the...
The relative excesses $\Gamma_i^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})}$ is the surface excess of component $i$ relative to the surface excess of component 1, chosen to be $\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The relative excesses $\Gamma_i^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})}$ are equal to a weighted difference between absolute surface excesses, $\Gamma_i^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})} = \Gamma_i - \Gamma_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}(c_i/c_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})$, where $c_i$ and $c_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ are liquid-phase concentrations and the gas-phase concentrations are neglected.

The relative surface excess to be computed approximately from

$$\Gamma_{\text{butyl}}^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})} \approx \frac{-a_{\text{butanol}}}{RT} \left( \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial a_{\text{butanol}}} / T \right)$$

Equation 2 may be simplified by determining the relation between $a_{\text{butanol}}$ and the formal butanol concentration $c_{\text{butanol}}$. Harkins and Wampler showed that Henry’s Law is valid to within 5% for 0–0.4 M butanol in water (0–0.007 butanol mole fraction). In addition, capacitance manometer and mass spectroscopic measurements of a degassed sample of n-butanol in 72 wt % $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ at 296 K indicate that the butanol vapor pressure $P_{\text{butanol}}$ increases linearly from 0 to 0.4 M alcohol. The absolute pressure is 0.1 ± 0.05 Torr over the 0.4 M solution. The activity $a_{\text{butanol}} = P_{\text{butanol}}/P_{\text{butanol}}$ should therefore also vary linearly with $c_{\text{butanol}}$ in concentrated sulfuric acid, enabling the surface tension data to be analyzed using

$$\Gamma_{\text{butyl}}^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})} \approx \frac{-c_{\text{butanol}}}{RT} \left( \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial c_{\text{butanol}}} / T \right)$$

On the basis of the 0.1 Torr increase in pressure over the 0.4 M butanol range, the effective solubility of butanol in 72 wt % $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ is roughly $3 \times 10^{-14}$ M/atm at 296 K, which is 20 times greater than the 150 M/atm value for butanol in water. 42

Figure 2 shows the surface excess $\Gamma_{\text{butyl}}^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})}$ at each acid concentration, calculated by approximating the derivative in eq 4 by a finite difference. In each panel, the surface excess rises sharply to 2–4 $\times 10^{-14}$ cm$^{-2}$ as the butanol concentration is increased to 0.2 M and then varies only weakly from 0.2 to 0.4 M butanol. The error bars in panel d represent 90% confidence intervals for nine measurements and are close to ±0.3 $\times 10^{-14}$ cm$^{-2}$; the fluctuations in $\Gamma_{\text{butyl}}^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})}$ below 0.2 M butanol arise from small changes in the slope in Figure 1d and are likely due to errors in measurement.

We can interpret the data further by assuming that the segregated butyl species lie solely at the outermost layer of the solution and that the acid below this layer has the same composition as the bulk solution (see the Appendix). At low bulk concentrations of butanol, the total surface coverage of butyl species, $n_{\text{butyl}}$, is then equal to the sum of the relative surface excess $\Gamma_{\text{butyl}}^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})}$, and the number of butyl species per unit area, $n_{\text{butyl}}^{2D}$, in a slice through the bulk. $n_{\text{butyl}}^{2D}$ is given by

$$n_{\text{butyl}}^{2D} \approx \frac{c_{\text{butanol}}}{A_{\text{water}}c_{\text{water}} + A_{\text{acid}}c_{\text{acid}}}$$

where $A_{\text{water}} \approx 1 \times 10^{-15}$ cm$^2$ is the approximate area of $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$, $A_{\text{acid}} \approx 2 \times 10^{-15}$ cm$^2$ is the approximate area of $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$, $\text{HSO}_4^-$, and $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$, and $c_{\text{water}}$ and $c_{\text{acid}}$ are the formal molar concentrations of water and acid in the bulk solution.
For 0.4 M butanol (0.007 mole fraction), $n_{\text{butyl}}^{2D}$ varies from 7 to $8 \times 10^{12}$ cm$^{-2}$ for pure water and 72 wt % H$_2$SO$_4$, respectively. These values yield $\gamma_{\text{butyl}}^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})} \approx 1.02 \Gamma_{\text{butyl}}^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})}$ for water to $\approx 1.04 \gamma^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})}$ for 72 wt % H$_2$SO$_4$, indicating that the total surface concentration of butyl-containing species is just slightly higher than the relative surface excess in Figure 2.

Figure 3 summarizes the main result: the average surface excess between 0.3 and 0.4 M butanol, $\langle \Gamma_{\text{butyl}} \rangle$, drops steadily from $3.4 \times 10^{14}$ to $2.0 \times 10^{14}$ cm$^{-2}$ as the acid concentration increases from 0 to 72 wt % H$_2$SO$_4$. The value for butanol in pure water is close to the $3.5 \times 10^{14}$ cm$^{-2}$ excess measured by Harkins and Wampler at 0.4 M $^{37,39}$ and corresponds to an average surface area per butanol molecule of 29 Å$^2$ (from $\langle \gamma_{\text{butyl}}^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})} \rangle^{-1} \approx [1.02(\gamma_{\text{butyl}}^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})})]^{-1}$). This area is 38% greater than the close-packed value of 21 Å$^2$ for long chain alcohols, indicating that butanol molecules segregating from a 0.4 M water solution do not cover the surface in tightly packed, vertically oriented chains. $^{44}$ The butyl surface concentration in 72 wt % acid corresponds to an average surface area of 51 Å$^2$, or 75% more than the area occupied by butanol on the surface of pure water. This area is sufficient for a butanol molecule to adopt a wide range of orientations, including ones parallel to the surface, where it would cover approximately 35 Å$^2$. $^{45}$

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate how changes in temperature and chain length alter the alcohol surface coverage. Figure 4a compares the surface tensions of butanol in 72 wt % H$_2$SO$_4$ at 294 and 208 K, measured by using the Pt plate and Pt wire, respectively. The surface tension drops faster at 208 K than at 294 K, but the data is noisier because of the smaller mass changes associated with the Pt wire. The surface excess in Figure 4b is 50–100% higher at 208 K than at 294 K at concentrations beyond 0.15 M butanol, corresponding to surface densities of $3 \times 4 \times 10^{14}$ cm$^{-2}$. The effect of adding two CH$_2$ groups to butanol is shown in Figure 5, which compares $n$-butanol and $n$-hexanol in 72 wt % H$_2$SO$_4$ at 294 K. The surface tension decreases more sharply for the longer chain alcohol, yielding a surface excess of $3 \times 10^{14}$ cm$^{-2}$ at 0.06 M hexanol, or 50% higher than for butanol.

Discussion

The chief observation is shown in Figure 3: the surface coverage of butyl species, $\langle \gamma_{\text{butyl}}^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})} \rangle^{-1} \approx (1.02–1.04)(\gamma_{\text{butyl}}^{(\text{H}_2\text{O})})$, decreases from $3.5 \times 10^{14}$ cm$^{-2}$ to $2.0 \times 10^{14}$ cm$^{-2}$ as the acidity of the 0.3–0.4 M butanol solutions increases from 0 to 72 wt % H$_2$SO$_4$ at 294 K. This 43% decline in surface coverage implies that alcohols at the surfaces of sulfuric acid solutions are not likely to provide more compact barriers than on pure water at the same temperature and bulk alcohol concentration. A similar conclusion was reached by Rubel for solid hexadecanol monolayers on 73 and 95 wt % phosphoric acid, based
on measured water uptake probabilities of $1 \times 10^{-4}$ and $4 \times 10^{-4}$, respectively. The 4-fold higher water uptake rate for the more acidic subphase was attributed to an unspecified ionization of the OH headgroup, which leads to a loss of cohesion among the hexadecanol molecules.

The addition of sulfuric acid to water most likely suppresses the surface segregation of butanol through a similar ionization mechanism that includes protonation of the OH group and conversion of some butanol to ionic or neutral butyl hydrogen sulfate. Changes in solvent size and the increased solubility of butanol in more acidic solutions may also play a role. In particular, the formation of ROH$^+$, ROSSO$_4$H, and ROSSO$_4^-$ makes n-butanol 20 times more soluble in 72 wt % H$_2$SO$_4$ than in water. The surface tension data, however, does not immediately indicate that this greater solubility drives butyl species from the surface to positions deeper in the bulk. Figure 2 shows that $\Gamma_{\text{butyl}}^{(H_2O)}$ increases linearly in the low concentration region of 0–0.04 M butanol, with slopes $\Gamma_{\text{butyl}}^{(H_2O)}/\mu_{\text{butanol}}$ close to $8 \times 10^{-6}$ cm$^{-2}$/cm$^2$ in each panel. The slopes are not statistically different in 0, 20, 38, 58, and 72 wt % H$_2$SO$_4$, implying that the surface segregation of butyl species at low surface coverages (less than $1.5 \times 10^{14}$ cm$^{-2}$) does not vary with acidity as strongly as does the limiting surface coverage above 0.2 M butanol. This observation supports the idea that interactions between butyl species at high surface coverages, including charge repulsions$^{1,4,48}$ among neighboring ROH$^+$ or ROSSO$_4^-$ species, inhibit close packing at the surface. At the monolayer concentrations shown in Figure 3, the segregated butyl species will also occasionally be separated by solvent molecules. The substitution of H$_2$O by molecular or dissociated H$_2$SO$_4$ between the chains should increase the spacing from roughly 3 to 4.5 Å$^{37}$ thereby expanding the film in regions where the solvent has not been squeezed out.

The addition of sulfuric acid to water may also increase the effective surface area of a butanol molecule as some ROH and ROH$^+$ species are converted into ROSSO$_4$H or ROSSO$_4^-$. However, the minimum cross-sectional area of an −SO$_3$H group is only ~20 Å$^{37}$ implying that neutral ROSSO$_4$H molecules should be compressible to areas smaller than the 51 Å$^2$ observed in Figure 3 for 72 wt % H$_2$SO$_4$. Figures 4 and 5 demonstrate that changes in temperature and chain length do reduce the occupied surface area: the alcohol monolayer can be made 50–100% more compact by cooling the 72 wt % acid from 294 to 208 K or by substituting n-hexanol for n-butanol and thereby increasing the attractive forces between the chains, each in parallel with trends observed for alcohol segregation on the surface of pure water.$^{38,48,49}$ These trends suggest that alcohols much longer than butanol may segregate densely enough onto the surface of supercooled sulfuric acid aerosols to impede gas transport significantly, just as observed on concentrated phosphoric acid.$^4$ This hypothesis will be tested by determining the segregation of long chain alcohols in 72 wt % H$_2$SO$_4$ at 294 and 208 K and by measuring the uptake rates$^{13}$ as a function of chain length.

Acknowledgment. We thank the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and the Hilldale Fund of the University of Wisconsin for supporting this work. We also thank Professor George Zografii for loan of the analytical balance used for the surface tension measurements, Jennifer Lawrence and David Castro for mass spectrometric measurements of butanol solubility, and Professor Donald Lee for discussions concerning butanol protonation.

Appendix: The Gibbs Equation for Butanol Segregation in Sulfuric Acid

Butyl Surface Excess. The equation relating the surface tension $\gamma$ to the relative surface excesses $\Gamma_i^{(H_2O)}$ at fixed temperature, $-d\gamma = \sum_i \Gamma_i^{(H_2O)} \partial \mu_i$, can be simplified by imposing relations among the chemical potentials $\mu_i$. The ROH−H$_2$O−H$_2$SO$_4$ system (R = C$_4$H$_9$) consists of potentially 10 species (ROH, H$_2$O, H$_2$SO$_4$, HSO$_4^-$, SO$_2^-$, H$_2$O$^+$, ROH$^+$, ROSSO$_4$H, ROSSO$_4^-$, and (RO)$_2$SO$_4$). The Gibbs equation for this system is (dropping the H$_2$O superscripts on $\Gamma_i^{(H_2O)}$)

$$-d\gamma = \Gamma_{H_2O} \partial \mu_{H_2O} + \Gamma_{H_2SO_4} \partial \mu_{H_2SO_4} + \Gamma_{HSO_4^-} \partial \mu_{HSO_4^-} + \Gamma_{SO_2^-} \partial \mu_{SO_2^-} + \Gamma_{ROH} \partial \mu_{ROH} + \Gamma_{ROH^+} \partial \mu_{ROH^+} + \Gamma_{ROSO_4H} \partial \mu_{ROSO_4H} + \Gamma_{ROSO_4^-} \partial \mu_{ROSO_4^-} + \Gamma_{(RO)SO_2} \partial \mu_{(RO)SO_2}$$

(A.1)

The relative surface excess of species $i$ can be obtained from $\Gamma_i = -(\partial / \partial \mu_i)_{\mu_i(=\mu_{H_2O})}$ if the chemical potentials of the other species could be fixed. We control only the temperature and initial concentration of sulfuric acid, and thus the $\mu_i$ may vary as the alcohol is added. Equation A.1 can still be simplified by relating the chemical potentials through eqs 1a–1f and by imposing electrical neutrality, $\Gamma_{H_2O} + \Gamma_{ROH} = \Gamma_{HSO_4^-} + \Gamma_{ROSO_4^-} + 2\Gamma_{SO_2^-}$. These conditions allow eq A.1 to be recast in terms of $\partial \mu_{ROH}/\partial \mu_{H_2SO_4}$ and $\partial \mu_{H_2O}/\partial \mu_{H_2SO_4}$

$$-d\gamma = \Gamma_{butyl} + \Gamma_{HSO_4^-} + 2\Gamma_{SO_2^-} - \Gamma_{ROSO_4^-}$$

(A.2)

Equation A.2 demonstrates that the change in surface tension depends not only on $\Gamma_{butyl}$ the sum of the relative surface excesses of all butyl containing species (eq 3), but also on changes in the chemical potentials of H$_2$SO$_4$ and H$_2$O with added butanol. The change in $\Gamma_{H_2O}$ has been measured for the addition of n-butanol to pure water$^{37}$ and of 2-butanol to 0.1 M Na$_2$SO$_4$.$^{37}$ In both cases, $(\partial \mu_{H_2O}/\partial \mu_{ROH})_T$ is smaller than 0.005 over the 0.4 M butanol range. The effect of added butanol on the chemical potentials of H$_2$O and H$_2$SO$_4$ in 72 wt % H$_2$SO$_4$ is more difficult to assess. Studies of the dissolution of tert-butyl alcohol in 0–55 wt % H$_2$SO$_4$ at 298 K indicate that 0.4 M butanol does not alter the Hammett acidity function $H_2$, by more than 0.1 units, implying that the activity of H$_2$O$^+$ is relatively unaffected.$^{50}$ One indirect method for estimating $(\partial \mu_{H_2SO_4}/\partial \mu_{ROH})_T$ is to assume that the addition of butanol is equivalent to the addition of water, according to the formal reaction HSO$_4^-$ + ROH → ROH$^-$ + H$_2$SO$_4$. To assume that ROH$^-$ behaves like HSO$_4^-$.$^{31}$ A 0.4 M butanol solution in 72 wt % H$_2$SO$_4$ would then be equivalent to pure 71.7 wt % H$_2$SO$_4$. Thermodynamic calculations$^{51}$ indicate that this dilution lowers $P_{H_2SO_4}$ from 4.5 × 10$^{-4}$ to 4.0 × 10$^{-4}$ Torr and raises $P_{H_2O}$ from 0.57 to 0.60 Torr, yielding $(\partial \mu_{H_2SO_4}/\partial \mu_{ROH})_T$ of −0.06 and $(\partial \mu_{H_2O}/\partial \mu_{ROH})_T$ of +0.03. Equation A.2 reduces approximately to $-d\gamma / \partial \mu_{H_2O}$, $\approx \Gamma_{butyl} - (1/3)\Gamma_{H_2SO_4} + (1/3)\Gamma_{HSO_4^-} + \Gamma_{ROSO_4H} + (2/3)\Gamma_{ROSO_4^-} + (1/3)\Gamma_{ROH} - (1/3)\Gamma_{(RO)SO_2}$. The term in brackets is smaller than $\Gamma_{butyl}$ due to partial cancellation of the excess of butyl species and the deficit of sulfuric acid species (dibutyl sulfate should be present in
only very small amounts). The coefficient of $n_{i}/n_{f}$ further limits the correction term to no more than 9% of $\Gamma_{\text{buty}}$.

**Butyl Surface Concentration.** As shown in ref 40, the relative surface excess $\Gamma_{\text{buty}}^{\text{H}_{2}\text{O}}$ for a multicomponent, gas–liquid system can be expressed approximately as $n_{i} - n_{\text{H}_{2}\text{O}}(c_{i}/c_{\text{H}_{2}\text{O}})$, where $c_{i}$ is the liquid-phase concentration of species $i$ and $n_{i}$ is the total number of species $i$ in solution per unit area of surface, integrated from above the gas–liquid interface to a cutoff position deep within the bulk. For the special case in which the excesses and deficits are limited to the outermost layer of the solution, this cutoff position can be placed just below the outer monolayer and $n_{f}$ becomes the surface concentration of species $i$, $n_{i}$. The expression for $\Gamma_{\text{buty}}^{\text{H}_{2}\text{O}}$ can then be combined with the constraint $n_{\text{buty}}^{\text{surf}} + n_{\text{water}}^{\text{surf}} + n_{\text{acid}}^{\text{surf}} = 1$, where $A_{i}$ is the surface area per molecule. We also assume that $n_{\text{water}}^{\text{surf}} = \Gamma_{\text{H}_{2}\text{O}}^{\text{surf}} = \Gamma_{\text{water}}^{\text{surf}}$, which holds for sulfuric acid, where there is little surface segregation$^{18,19}$, and we set $-(\partial y_{\text{H}_{2}\text{O}}/\partial n_{\text{H}_{2}\text{O}})_{T} = \Gamma_{\text{H}_{2}\text{O}}^{\text{surf}}$ in eq A.2. In the limit of low bulk butanol concentration, the total surface concentration of butyl species is given by $n_{\text{buty}}^{\text{surf}} \approx \Gamma_{\text{buty}}^{\text{H}_{2}\text{O}} + n_{\text{buty}}^{\text{2D}}$, where $\Gamma_{\text{buty}}^{\text{H}_{2}\text{O}}$ and $n_{\text{buty}}^{\text{2D}}$ are determined from eqs 4 and 5, respectively. The second term contributes only 2–4% to the sum.

References and Notes