

**The excited state dipole moments of betaine pyridinium  
investigated by an innovative solvatochromic analysis and  
TDDFT calculations.**

**Supporting Info**

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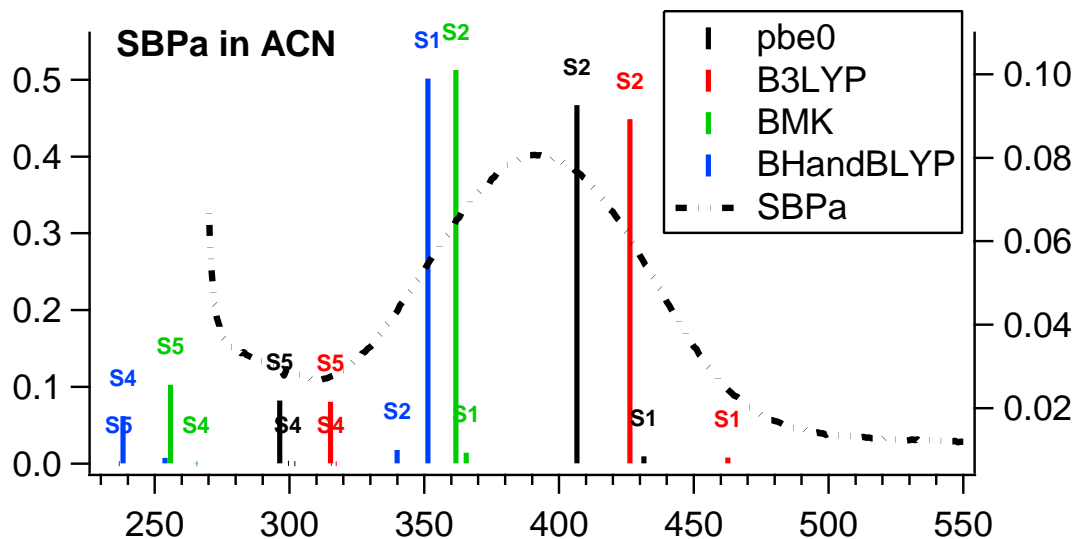


Figure S11. Absorption spectrum of SBPa and PCM-TD-/6-311++G(2d,p)//PBE0/6-311G(d) oscillator strength for different functionals PBE0, B3LYP, BMK, BHandBLP in acetonitrile.

	ACN		THF		Toluene	
Exp	3.1872	$\Delta_{\text{exp-theo}}$	2.9590	$\Delta_{\text{exp-theo}}$	2.8307	$\Delta_{\text{exp-theo}}$
B3LYP (20%)	2.9085 (S <sub>2</sub> )	0.2787	2.8019 (S <sub>2</sub> )	0.1571	2.5719 (S <sub>2</sub> )	0.2588
PBE0 (25%)	3.0490 (S <sub>2</sub> )	0.1382	2.9353 (S <sub>2</sub> )	0.0237	2.6828 (S <sub>2</sub> )	0.1479
BMK (42%)	3.4279 (S <sub>2</sub> )	-0.2407	3.3022 (S <sub>2</sub> )	-0.3432	3.0032 (S <sub>2</sub> )	-0.1725
BHandHLYP (50%)	3.5291 (S <sub>1</sub> )	-0.3419	3.3965 (S <sub>1</sub> )	-0.4375	3.0672 (S <sub>1</sub> )	-0.2365

Table S11: Experimental and TDDFT theoretical CT band position in eV for different functionals. The main electronic state involved is indicated in parentheses.

	Basis	Vaccum	THF	ACN
PBE0	6-311++g(d,p)	4.92	4.52	4.74
	6-311g(d,p)	4.61	4.95	4.83
	6-31g	4.66	4.67	4.62

Table S12: DFT/PCM Calculated Onsager radii (in Å) for SBPa in vacuum, in THF, and in acetonitrile using the PBE0 functional with different basis sets.

## INNOVATIVE PHYSICAL SOLVATOCHROMIC DATA TREATMENT

The inputs of our algorithm are the experimental solvatochromic data  $\{v_{Abs}^{sol}\}$  or  $\{v_{Fluo}^{sol}\}$  and the solvent properties  $n$  and  $\epsilon$  while the adjustable parameters are the molecular polarizability  $\alpha$  and gas phase absorption/emission band maxima  $v_{Abs}^{gaz}/v_{Fluo}^{gaz}$ . The main idea of this approach is based on the principle that the best set of  $v_{Abs/Fluo}^{gaz}$  and  $\alpha$  parameters should lead to the most accurate non-linear fit of the solvatochromic data according to eq 5 (main article). Thus, we have imagined to plot in a 2D map the variation of the mean square coefficient  $\chi^2$  characterizing this non linear fit as a function of both the  $v_{Abs/Fluo}^{gaz}$  and  $\alpha$  values. Analyzing this 2D map should allow to visualize directly the optimum values of  $v_{Abs/Fluo}^{gaz}$  and  $\alpha$ . The algorithm core (double implementation structure), illustrated in figure SI1, can be described as follows:

**STEP 1:** the experimental data  $\{v_{Abs}^{sol}\}$  or  $\{v_{Fluo}^{sol}\}$  measured for a given set of solvents  $\{n, \epsilon\}$  are selected. Appropriate intervals for the adjustable parameters  $v_{Abs/Fluo}^{gaz}$  and  $\alpha$  are chosen. The polarizability is scanned within the  $[0; 1.2]$  interval while  $v_{Abs}^{gaz}$  and  $v_{Fluo}^{gaz}$  are scanned within the  $[15000; 28000 \text{ cm}^{-1}]$  and  $[10000; 17000 \text{ cm}^{-1}]$  frequency intervals, respectively.

### **STEP 2:**

a) a pair of  $v_{Abs/Fluo}^{gaz}$  and  $\alpha$  values is implemented in the loop. The 2 functions  $g(n, \epsilon, \alpha)$  and  $h(n, \alpha)$  (eqs. 2 and 3) and  $\Delta v_{Abs/Fluo} = v_{Abs/Fluo}^{sol} - v_{Abs/Fluo}^{gaz}$  (left side of eq. 4) are determined.

b) Then the  $\Delta v_{Abs/Fluo}$  values are plotted for all solvents as a function of  $g(n, \epsilon, \alpha)$  and  $h(n, \alpha)$  in a 3D graph  $\Delta v_{Abs/Fluo} = f[g(n, \epsilon, \alpha), h(n, \alpha)]$ .

c) Non-linear fits of  $\Delta v_{Abs/Fluo}$  by the equation plane  $K_1 g(n, \epsilon, \alpha) - K_2 h(n, \alpha)$  (eq. 5) is performed and the fitted parameters  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  as well as  $\chi^2$  are stored.

Then the  $v_{Abs/Fluo}^{gaz}$  and  $\alpha$  values are incremented step by step within their respective intervals. For each set of values, the above operations a – c listed in step 2 are repeated until the overall chosen ranges are spanned by the procedure.

**STEP 3:** a 2D map of  $\chi^2$  as a function of the  $v_{Abs/Fluo}^{gaz}$  and  $\alpha$  values is built and its minimum value is detected. Alternatively, other interesting regions of the 2D map can be tested.

**STEP 4:** for the selected points chosen above,  $\mu_g(S_0)$ ,  $\mu_e(S_2)$  (abs) or  $\mu_e(S_1)$   $\mu_g(S_0')$  (emiss) are computed from  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  according to eq.6-9 after implementing an Onsager radius of 4.75 Å (DFT calculations; see table SI2) and a phase value  $\theta = 0$  or  $\pi$ .

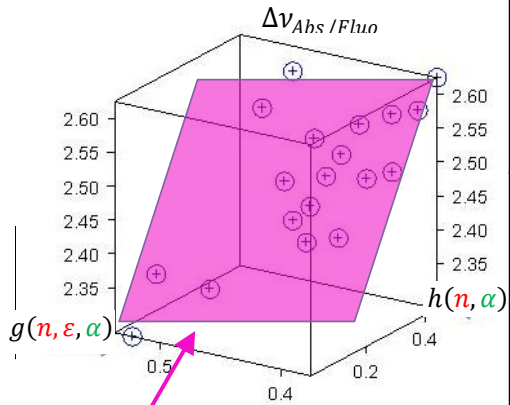
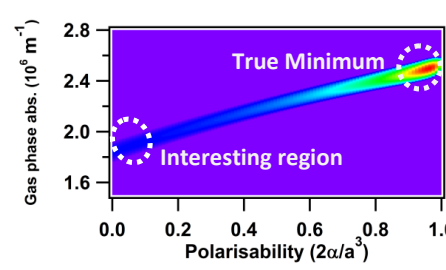
<b>Solvatochromic Data Treatment Algorithm</b>	
<b>GOAL= determinations of 2 dipole moments</b>	
<div><div>3 inputs:</div><div>2 adjustable parameters:</div></div> <div><div>Set of solvent values: <math>\{n, \epsilon\}</math></div><div>Solvatochromic data: <math>\{v_{Abs}^{sol}\}</math> or <math>\{v_{Fluo}^{sol}\}</math></div><div><math>v_{Abs}^{gaz}</math> or <math>v_{Fluo}^{gaz}</math> (gas phase!)</div><div>and polarizability <math>\alpha</math>.</div></div> <div><div>2 outputs:</div><div><math>\mu_g(S_0), \mu_e(S_2)</math> (absorption) or</div><div><math>\mu_e(S_1), \mu_g(S_0')</math> (emission)</div></div>	
<b>STEP 1</b>	One chooses appropriate intervals for $[v_{Abs/Fluo}^{gaz}]$ and $[\alpha]$ .
<b>STEP 2</b>	<div>a) For a pair of values <math>(v_{Abs/Fluo}^{gaz}; \alpha)</math> one computes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><math>g(n, \epsilon, \alpha)</math></li><li><math>h(n, \alpha)</math></li><li><math>\Delta v_{Abs/Fluo} = v_{Abs/Fluo}^{sol} - v_{Abs/Fluo}^{gaz}</math></li></ul></div> <div>b) one plots 3D graph <math>\Delta v_{Abs/Fluo} = f[g(n, \epsilon, \alpha), h(n, \alpha)]</math></div> <div>c) Non-linear fit: <math>\Delta v_{abs/fluo} = K_1 g(n, \epsilon, \alpha) - K_2 h(n, \alpha)</math> <math>\Rightarrow K_1, K_2</math> and <math>\chi^2</math> are stored</div> <div>operation a)-c) repeated until both <math>[v_{Abs/Fluo}^{gaz}]</math> and <math>[\alpha]</math> are spanned</div> <div></div>
<b>STEP 3</b>	<div>2D Map are plotted <math>\chi^2 = f(v_{Abs/Fluo}^{gaz}; \alpha)</math></div> <div><math>\Rightarrow</math> identification of true minimum or other relevant points</div> <div></div>
<b>STEP 4</b>	<div>For the selected points :</div> <div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><math>K_1, K_2</math></li><li>Onsager radius=4.75 Å</li><li>Phase <math>\theta=0</math> or <math>\pi</math></li></ul></div><div><div>absorption</div><div>emission</div></div><div><math display="block">\begin{cases} \mu_g(S_0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\epsilon_0 a^3}} \frac{K_1}{\sqrt{2(K_1 - K_2)}} \\ \mu_e(S_2) = \frac{(cos\theta)^{-1}}{\sqrt{4\pi\epsilon_0 a^3}} \frac{K_2}{\sqrt{2(K_1 - K_2)}} \\ \mu_g(S_0') = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\epsilon_0 a^3}} \frac{2K_2 - K_1}{\sqrt{2(K_1 - K_2)}} \\ \mu_e(S_1) = \frac{(cos\theta)^{-1}}{\sqrt{4\pi\epsilon_0 a^3}} \frac{K_1}{\sqrt{2(K_1 - K_2)}} \end{cases}</math></div></div>

figure SI2. Overall illustration of the 4 step algorithm related to the Innovative physical solvatochromic data treatment.

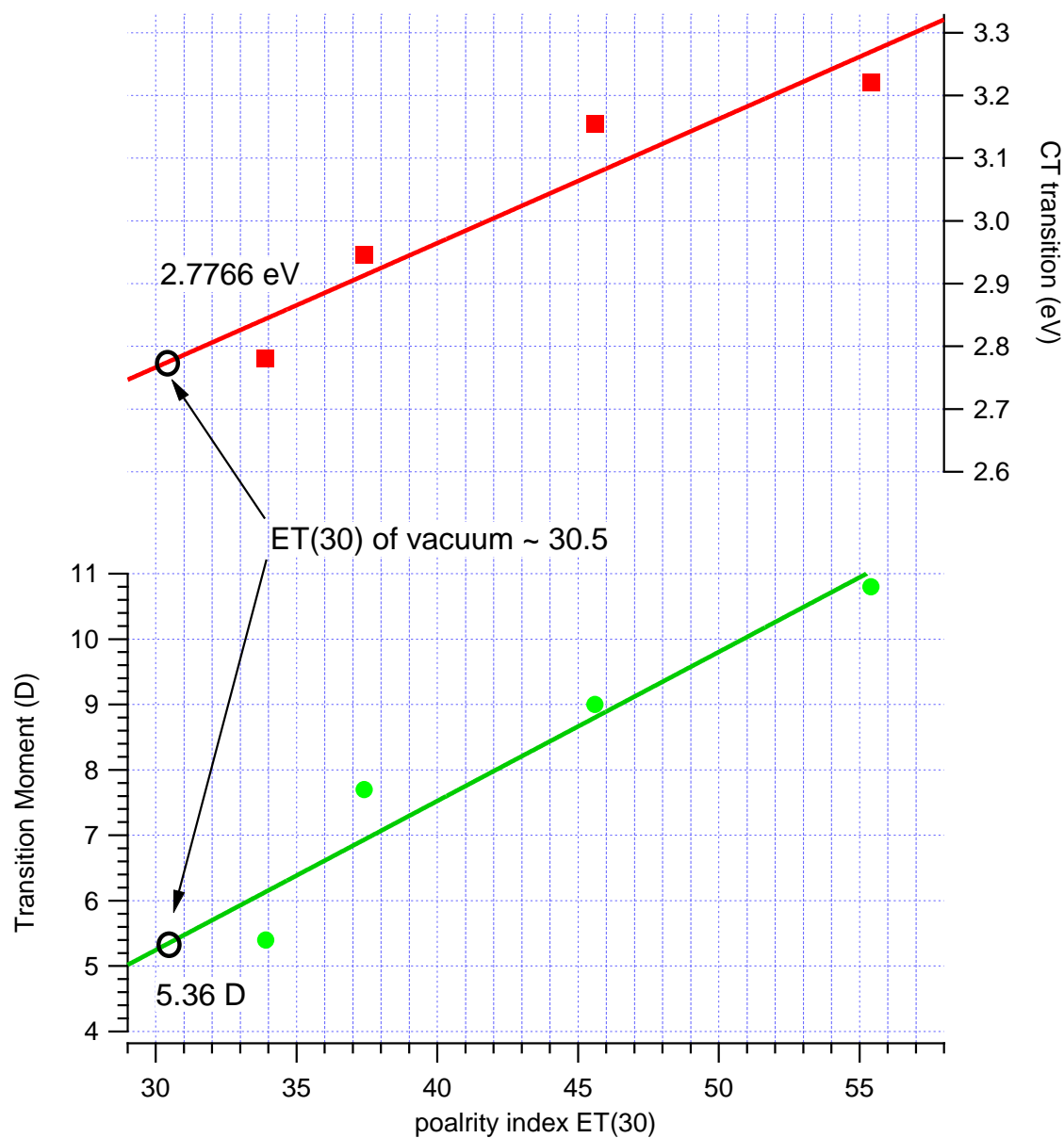


Figure S13. Transition energy and transition moment of the solvatochromic CT band of SBPa (see fig 1 and Table 2) in Toluene, THF, ACN and MeOH. The extrapolated values for vacuum are indicated.