

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Role of the Cation in the Solvation of Cellulose by Imidazolium-Based Ionic Liquids

Brooks D. Rabideau,^{*,†} Animesh Agarwal,^{†,¶} and Ahmed E. Ismail^{*,†}

Aachener Verfahrenstechnik: Molecular Simulations and Transformations, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, RWTH Aachen University, Schinkelstraße 2, 52062 Aachen, Germany, and AICES Graduate School, RWTH Aachen University, Schinkelstraße 2, 52062 Aachen, Germany

E-mail: rabideau@aices.rwth-aachen.de; aei@alum.mit.edu

Phone: +49 (0)241 8099128. Fax: +49 (0)241 80628498

^{*}To whom correspondence should be addressed

[†]Aachener Verfahrenstechnik: Molecular Simulations and Transformations, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, RWTH Aachen University, Schinkelstraße 2, 52062 Aachen, Germany

[‡]AICES Graduate School, RWTH Aachen University, Schinkelstraße 2, 52062 Aachen, Germany

[¶]Institut für Mathematik, Freie Universität Berlin, Arnimallee 6, 14195 Berlin, Germany

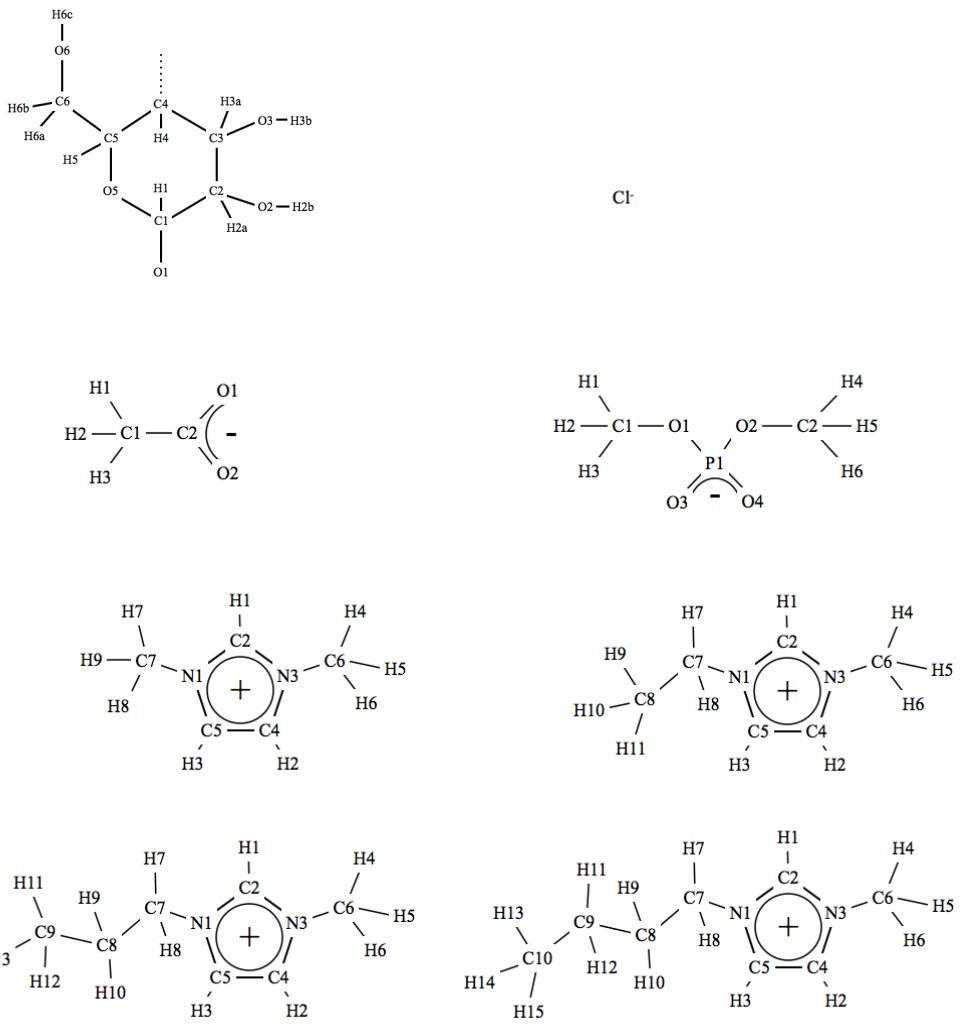


Figure S1: Atom naming within the different molecules.

Table S1: Number of contacts between the ring hydrogens of the cation and cellulose-bound anions and cellulose oxygens.

| Simulation | Number of contacts ^a | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | bound anion | cellulose |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x8 glucans) | 0.39 | 0.32 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x16 glucans) | 0.94 | 0.50 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (4x16 glucans) | 0.95 | 0.49 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x32 glucans) | 0.93 | 0.49 |

^aNormalized by the average number of cations present in the primary solvation shell of cellulose.

Table S2: Number of contacting ions for simulations with different cellulose lengths.

| Simulation | Contacting Ions per Glucan | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------|
| | Anion | Cation |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x8 glucans) | 2.626 ± 0.005 | 4.700 ± 0.007 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x16 glucans) | 2.427 ± 0.003 | 4.325 ± 0.004 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (4x16 glucans) ^a | 2.437 ± 0.003 | 4.296 ± 0.005 |
| | 2.436 ± 0.003 | 4.335 ± 0.005 |
| | 2.447 ± 0.003 | 4.271 ± 0.005 |
| | 2.438 ± 0.004 | 4.276 ± 0.005 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x32 glucans) | 2.418 ± 0.003 | 4.131 ± 0.004 |

^aeach entry refers to the statistics for one of the four strands.

Table S3: Number of C–H \cdots O hydrogen bonds for simulations with different cellulose lengths.

| Simulation | C–H \cdots O H-Bonds per Glucan |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x8 glucans) | 0.279 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x16 glucans) | 0.255 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (4x16 glucans) | 0.248 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x32 glucans) | 0.244 |

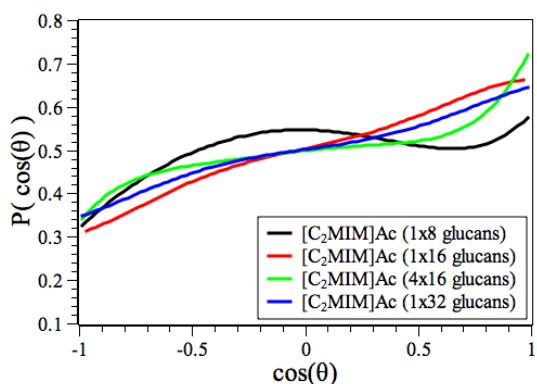


Figure S2: Orientation of the alkyl tail for different cellulose chain lengths.

Table S4: Energy contributions, in kcal/mol per glucan, between the different IL components and the cellulose strand.

| Simulation | Anion (elec) | Anion (vdW) | Cation (elec) | Cation (vdW) | Total |
|--|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------|
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x8 glucans) | -50.0 | -8.97 | 1.97 | -14.4 | -71.3 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x16 glucans) | -50.8 | -7.50 | 2.10 | -14.0 | -70.2 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (4x16 glucans) ^a | -48.5 | -7.63 | 2.04 | -14.0 | -68.1 |
| | -47.5 | -8.15 | 1.55 | -13.8 | -67.9 |
| | -48.1 | -4.02 | 2.15 | -13.8 | -63.8 |
| | -47.2 | -5.41 | 1.86 | -14.0 | -64.8 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x32 glucans) | -46.2 | -8.16 | 1.44 | -13.8 | -66.7 |

^aeach entry refers to individual statistics for each of the four strands.

Table S5: Occurrences of different hydrogen-bonding patterns per glucan.

| Simulation | nonbridging | | | bridging ^c | | | | Total ^d |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| | H ₆ | H ₃ | H ₂ | H _{2i} -H _{3i} | H _{2i} -H _{6j} | H _{3i} -H _{6j} | H _{2i} -H _{3j} | |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x8 glucans) | 0.63 | 0.28 | 0.18 | 0.52 | 0.34 | 0.12 | 0.61 | 2.91 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x16 glucans) | 0.63 | 0.31 | 0.22 | 0.58 | 0.37 | 0.14 | 0.56 | 2.80 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (4x16 glucans) | 0.56 | 0.30 | 0.25 | 0.50 | 0.32 | 0.20 | 0.39 | 2.89 |
| [C ₂ MIM]Ac (1x32 glucans) | 0.54 | 0.27 | 0.30 | 0.49 | 0.23 | 0.15 | 0.44 | 2.84 |

^cIndices i and j indicate separate glucans, where $i \neq j$. ^dIncludes other, less significant patterns not shown in preceding columns.

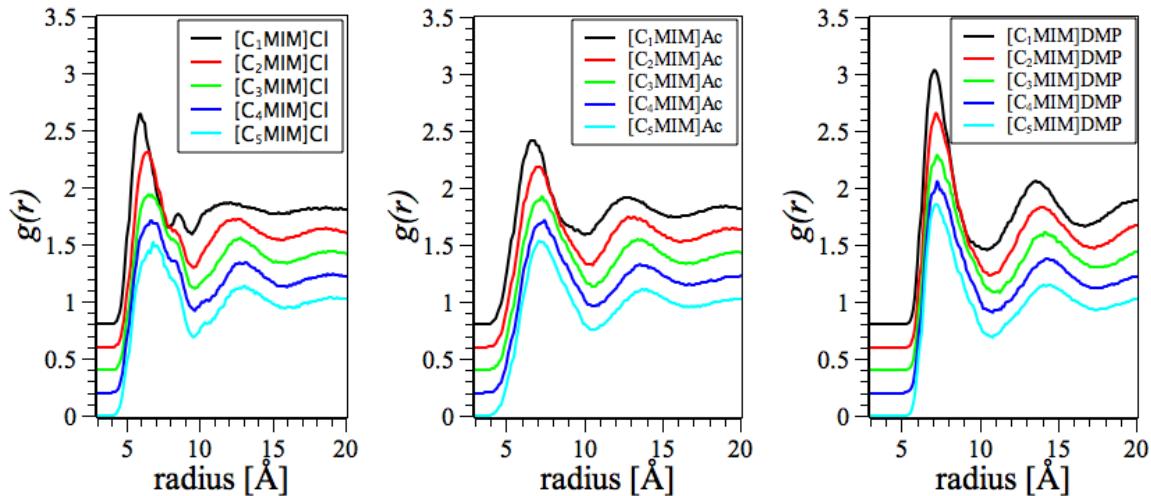
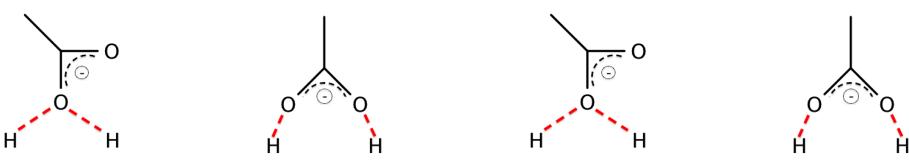


Figure S3: Anion-anion radial distribution functions for (a) the chlorides using the Cl atoms, (b) the acetates using the C2 atoms and (c) the dimethylphosphates using the P1 atoms.

Table S6: Hydrogen bonding for the chlorides

| IL | | same glucan ($i = j$) | | | different glucan ($i \neq j$) | | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | H ₂ | H ₃ | H ₆ | H ₂ | H ₃ | H ₆ |
| [C ₁ mim]Cl | H ₂ | 0.44 | 0.21 | 0 | 0.09 | 0.10 | 0.08 |
| | H ₃ | 0.21 | 0.50 | 0 | 0.10 | 0 | 0.13 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0 | 0.65 | 0.08 | 0.13 | 0.06 |
| [C ₂ mim]Cl | H ₂ | 0.47 | 0.22 | 0 | 0 | 0.09 | 0.11 |
| | H ₃ | 0.22 | 0.46 | 0 | 0.09 | 0 | 0.13 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0 | 0.55 | 0.11 | 0.13 | 0.14 |
| [C ₃ mim]Cl | H ₂ | 0.39 | 0.36 | 0 | 0 | 0.06 | 0.12 |
| | H ₃ | 0.36 | 0.24 | 0.01 | 0.06 | 0 | 0.10 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0.01 | 0.56 | 0.12 | 0.10 | 0.11 |
| [C ₄ mim]Cl | H ₂ | 0.24 | 0.31 | 0 | 0.11 | 0.05 | 0.20 |
| | H ₃ | 0.31 | 0.27 | 0.03 | 0.05 | 0 | 0.15 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0.03 | 0.35 | 0.20 | 0.15 | 0.07 |
| [C ₅ mim]Cl | H ₂ | 0.23 | 0.34 | 0 | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.11 |
| | H ₃ | 0.34 | 0.29 | 0 | 0.08 | 0 | 0.09 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0 | 0.47 | 0.11 | 0.09 | 0.13 |

Table S7: Hydrogen bonding for the acetates



| IL | same glucan ($i = j$) | | | same glucan ($i = j$) | | | different glucan ($i \neq j$) | | | different glucan ($i \neq j$) | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------|
| | H ₂ | H ₃ | H ₆ | H ₂ | H ₃ | H ₆ | H ₂ | H ₃ | H ₆ | H ₂ | H ₃ | H ₆ | |
| [C ₁ mim]Ac | H ₂ | 0.26 | 0.06 | 0 | 0.08 | 0.17 | 0 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.23 | 0.19 |
| | H ₃ | 0.06 | 0.44 | 0 | 0.17 | 0.05 | 0 | 0.01 | 0 | 0.04 | 0.23 | 0.01 | 0.03 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0 | 0.62 | 0 | 0 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0 | 0.19 | 0.03 | 0 |
| [C ₂ mim]Ac | H ₂ | 0.19 | 0.09 | 0 | 0.03 | 0.20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.03 | 0 | 0.28 | 0.15 |
| | H ₃ | 0.09 | 0.28 | 0 | 0.20 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.04 | 0.28 | 0 | 0.05 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0 | 0.60 | 0 | 0 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0 | 0.15 | 0.05 | 0 |
| [C ₃ mim]Ac | H ₂ | 0.27 | 0.12 | 0 | 0.04 | 0.18 | 0 | 0 | 0.02 | 0.06 | 0.02 | 0.25 | 0.17 |
| | H ₃ | 0.12 | 0.26 | 0 | 0.18 | 0.04 | 0 | 0.02 | 0 | 0.09 | 0.25 | 0.01 | 0.08 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0 | 0.48 | 0 | 0 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.09 | 0 | 0.17 | 0.08 | 0.02 |
| [C ₄ mim]Ac | H ₂ | 0.16 | 0.11 | 0 | 0.04 | 0.29 | 0 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.17 | 0.18 |
| | H ₃ | 0.11 | 0.29 | 0 | 0.29 | 0.04 | 0 | 0.03 | 0 | 0.05 | 0.17 | 0 | 0.09 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0 | 0.45 | 0 | 0 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.18 | 0.09 | 0.08 |
| [C ₅ mim]Ac | H ₂ | 0.16 | 0.14 | 0 | 0.01 | 0.21 | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0 | 0.14 | 0.13 |
| | H ₃ | 0.14 | 0.23 | 0 | 0.21 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0 | 0.01 | 0.14 | 0.02 | 0.01 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0 | 0.58 | 0 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.13 | 0.01 | 0.01 |

Table S8: Hydrogen bonding for the dimethylphosphates

| IL | same glucan ($i = j$) | | | same glucan ($i = j$) | | | different glucan ($i \neq j$) | | | different glucan ($i \neq j$) | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------|
| | H ₂ | H ₃ | H ₆ | H ₂ | H ₃ | H ₆ | H ₂ | H ₃ | H ₆ | H ₂ | H ₃ | H ₆ | |
| | H ₂ | 0.25 | 0.05 | 0 | 0 | 0.08 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.02 | 0 | 0.29 | 0.09 |
| [C ₁ mim]DMP | H ₃ | 0.05 | 0.33 | 0 | 0.08 | 0 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0.03 | 0.29 | 0 | 0.06 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0 | 0.52 | 0 | 0.02 | 0 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.09 | 0.06 | 0.01 |
| | H ₂ | 0.26 | 0.10 | 0 | 0 | 0.12 | 0 | 0.01 | 0 | 0.03 | 0 | 0.24 | 0.09 |
| [C ₂ mim]DMP | H ₃ | 0.10 | 0.29 | 0 | 0.12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.04 | 0.24 | 0 | 0.08 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0 | 0.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0 | 0.09 | 0.08 | 0 |
| | H ₂ | 0.27 | 0.14 | 0 | 0 | 0.12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.05 | 0 | 0.16 | 0.12 |
| [C ₃ mim]DMP | H ₃ | 0.14 | 0.25 | 0 | 0.12 | 0 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0.06 | 0.16 | 0 | 0.05 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0 | 0.38 | 0 | 0.02 | 0 | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0 | 0.12 | 0.05 | 0.05 |
| | H ₂ | 0.37 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0.10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.02 | 0 | 0.24 | 0.07 |
| [C ₄ mim]DMP | H ₃ | 0.04 | 0.23 | 0 | 0.10 | 0 | 0.05 | 0 | 0 | 0.05 | 0.24 | 0 | 0.05 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0 | 0.42 | 0 | 0.05 | 0 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0 | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.05 |
| | H ₂ | 0.26 | 0.11 | 0 | 0 | 0.05 | 0 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.15 | 0.06 |
| [C ₅ mim]DMP | H ₃ | 0.11 | 0.30 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0 | 0.03 | 0.15 | 0.06 | 0.06 |
| | H ₆ | 0 | 0.1 | 0.44 | 0 | 0.05 | 0 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.02 |

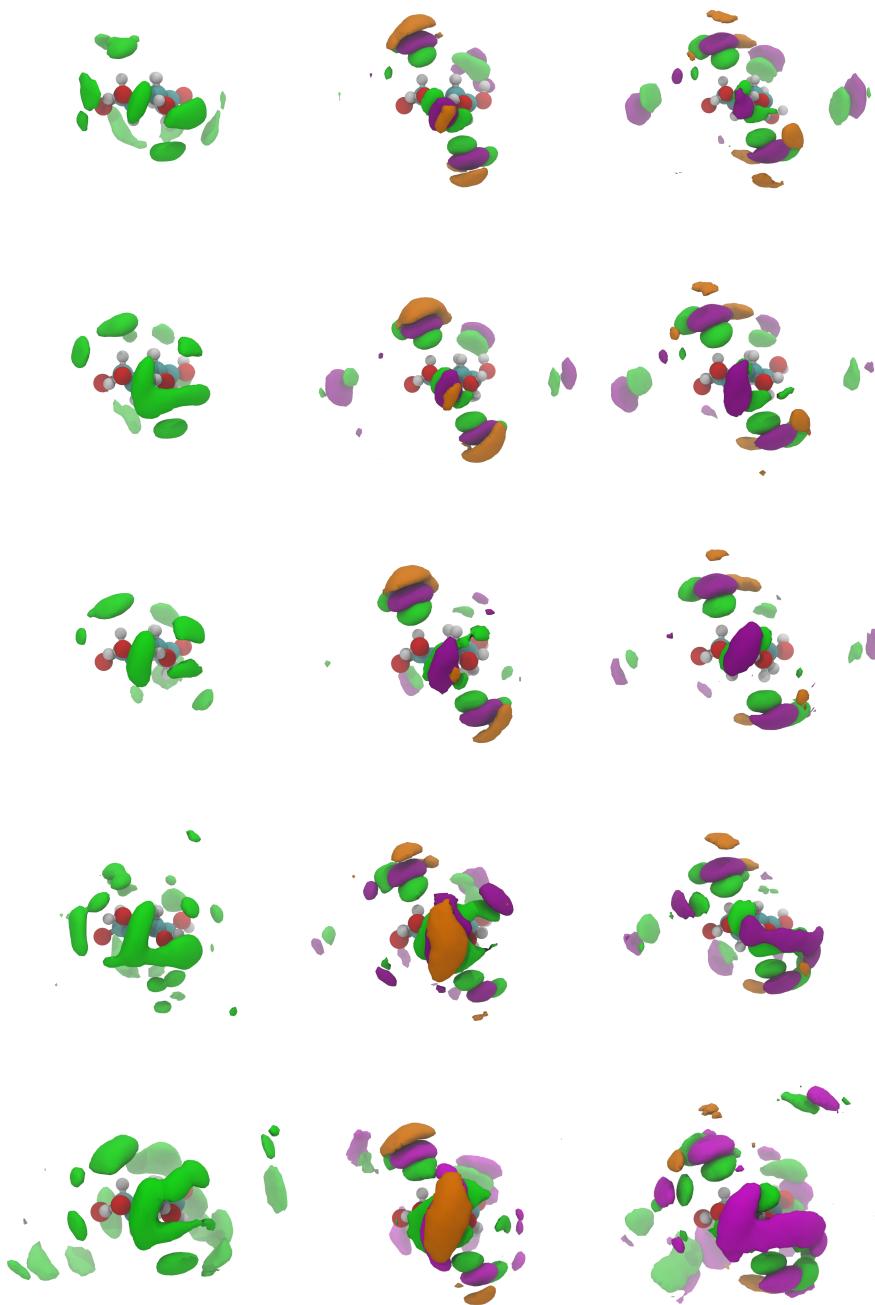


Figure S4: (Top to bottom): $[\text{C}_1\text{mim}]$, $[\text{C}_2\text{mim}]$, $[\text{C}_3\text{mim}]$, $[\text{C}_4\text{mim}]$ and $[\text{C}_5\text{mim}]$. (Left to right) Cl, Ac and DMP. Isosurfaces indicate 5 times the normal density and the colors indicate (green) Chloride and oxygens, (purple) carboxylic carbon and phosphorous and (orange) methyl groups.

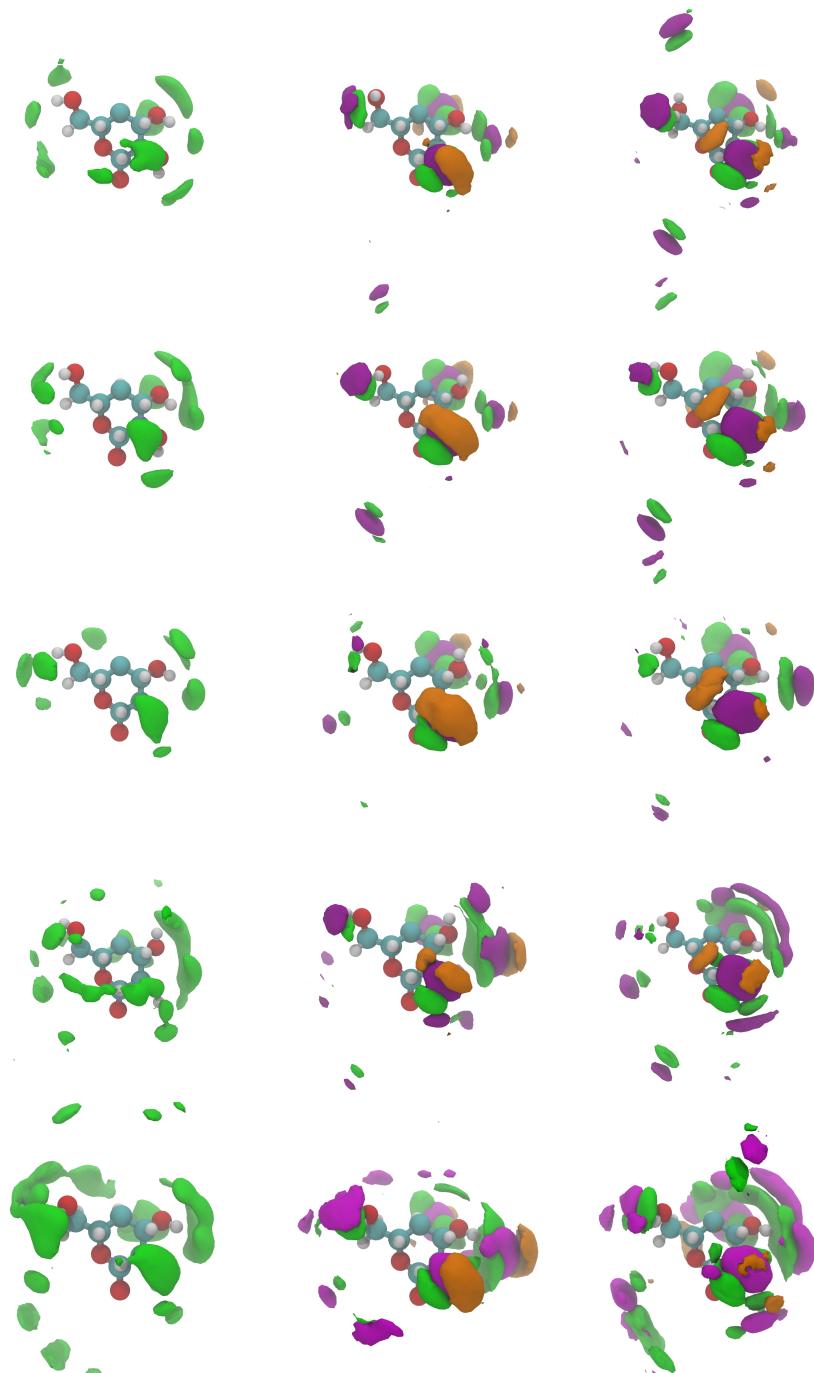


Figure S5: (Top to bottom): $[C_1mim]$, $[C_2mim]$, $[C_3mim]$, $[C_4mim]$ and $[C_5mim]$. (Left to right) Cl, Ac and DMP. Isosurfaces indicate 5 times the normal density and the colors indicate (green) Chloride and oxygens, (purple) carboxylic carbon and phosphorous and (orange) methyl groups.

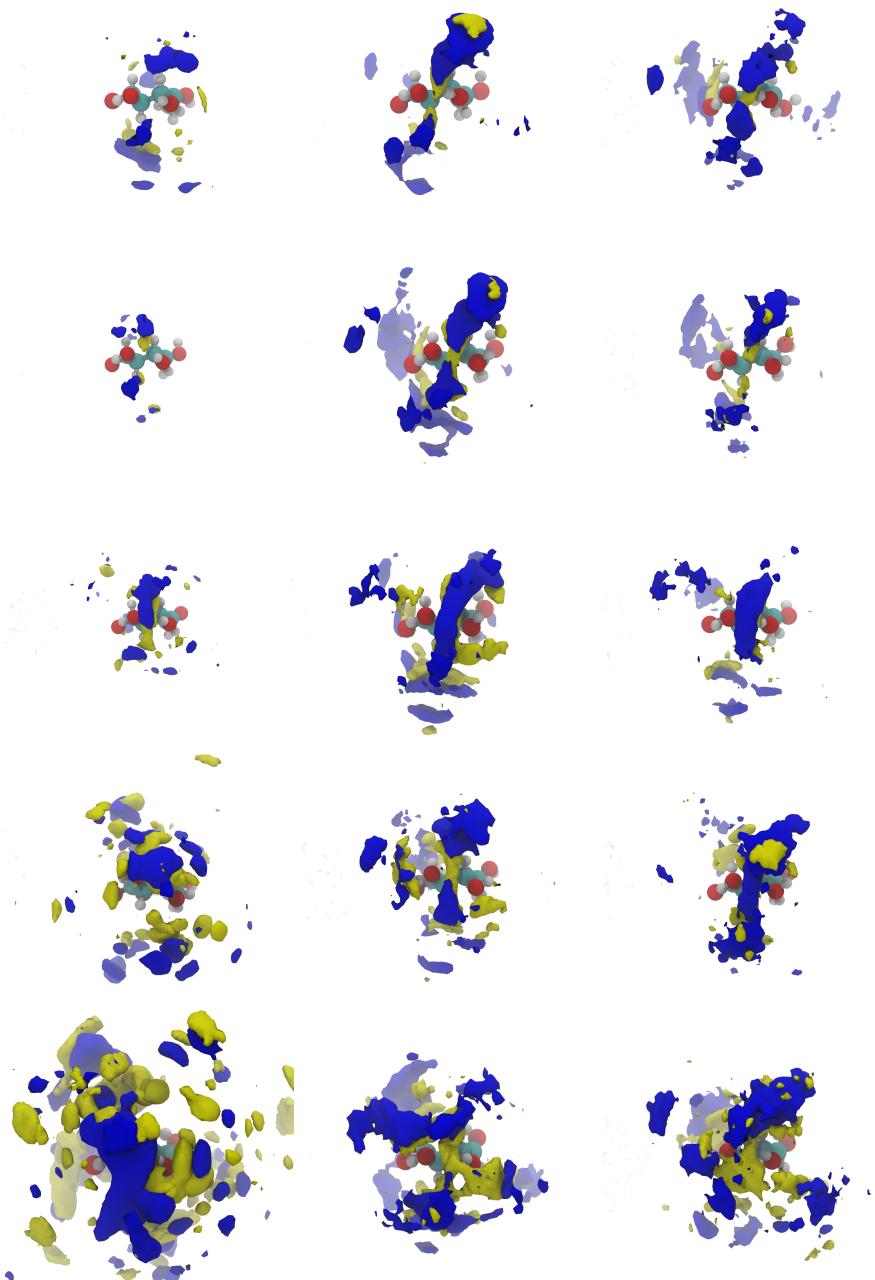


Figure S6: (Top to bottom): [C₁mim], [C₂mim], [C₃mim], [C₄mim] and [C₅mim]. (Left to right) Cl, Ac and DMP. Isosurfaces indicate 3 times the normal density and the colors indicate (blue) the C₂ atom of the cation and (yellow) the H₁, H₂ and H₃ atoms of the cation.

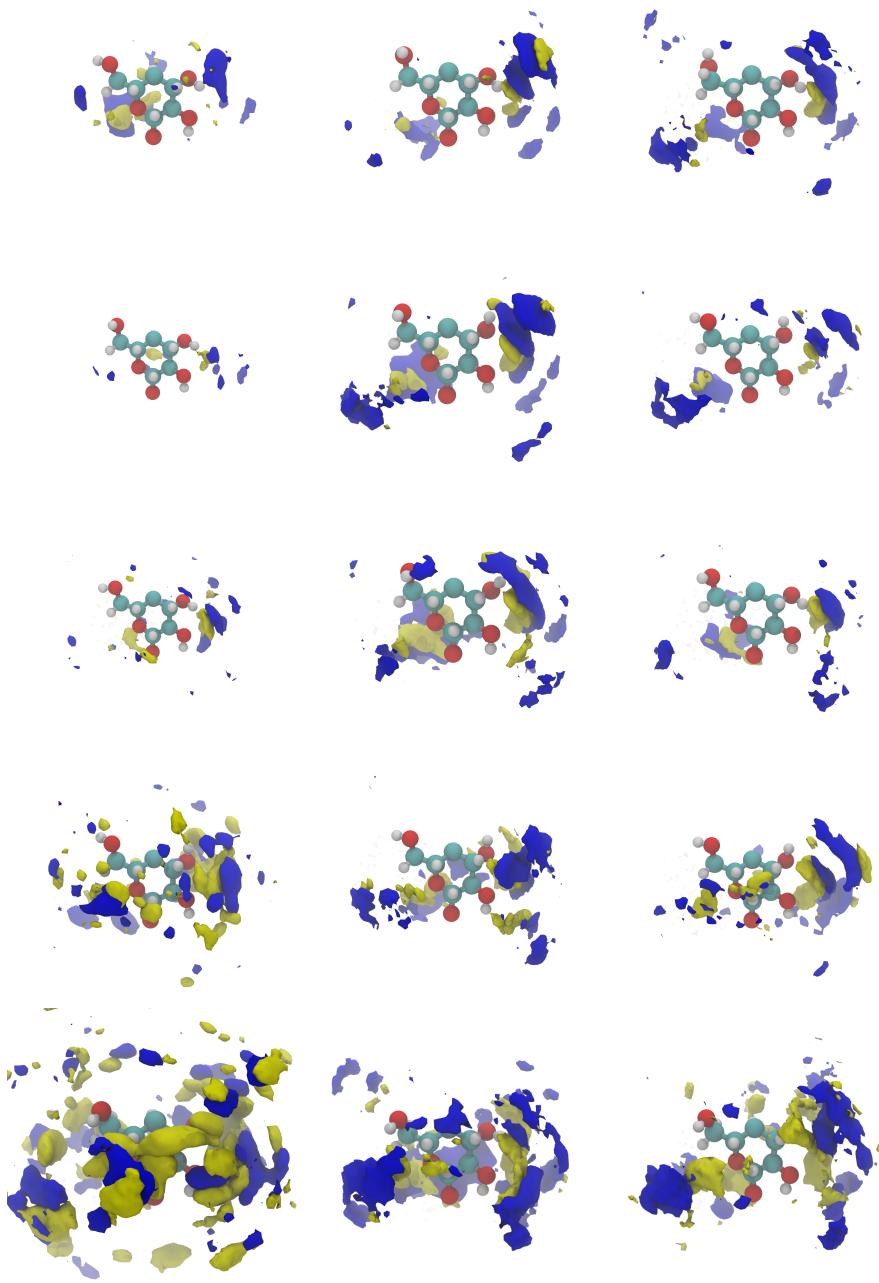


Figure S7: (Top to bottom): $[C_1mim]$, $[C_2mim]$, $[C_3mim]$, $[C_4mim]$ and $[C_5mim]$. (Left to right) Cl, Ac and DMP. Isosurfaces indicate 3 times the normal density and the colors indicate (blue) the C_2 atom of the cation and (yellow) the H_1 , H_2 and H_3 atoms of the cation.

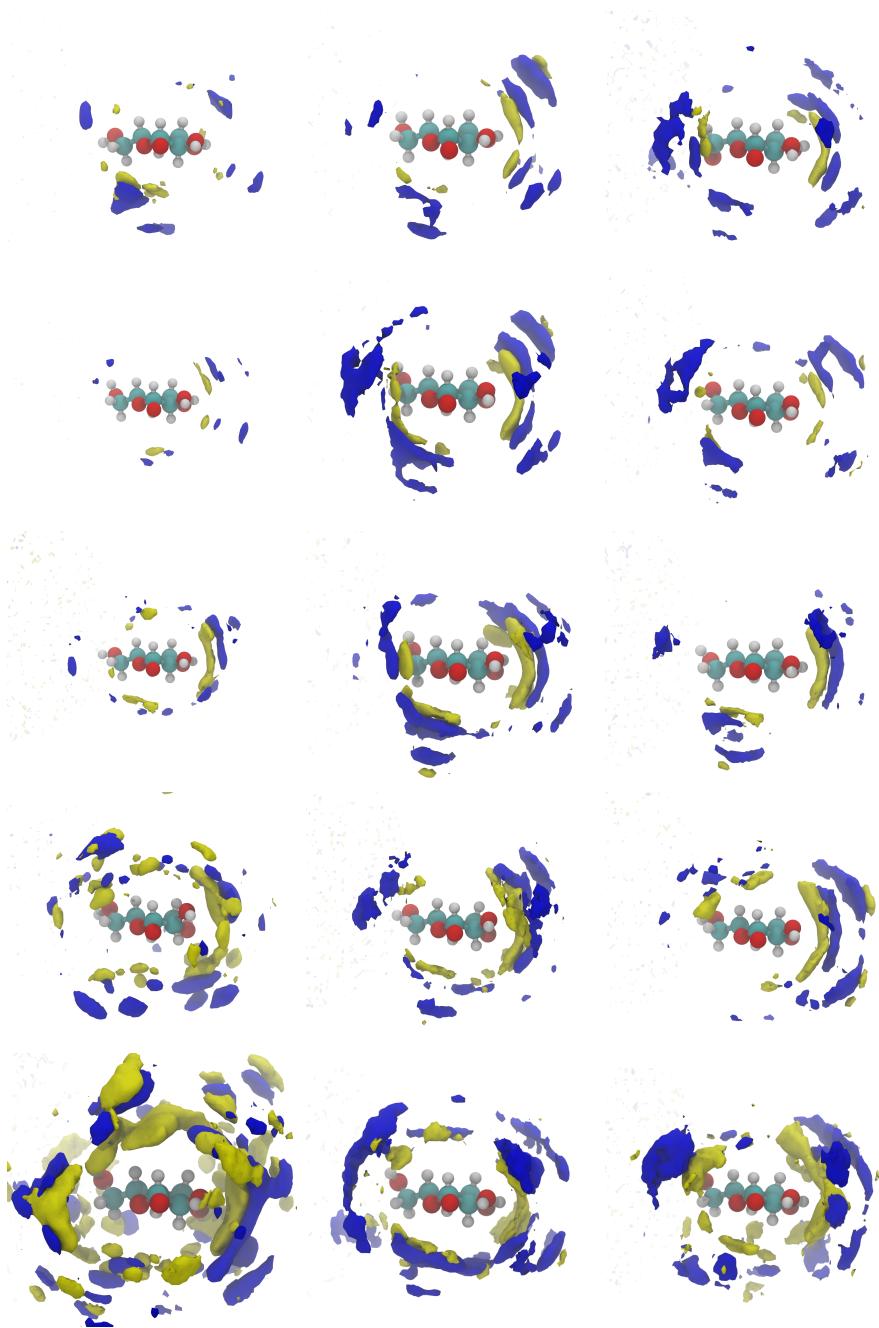


Figure S8: (Top to bottom): $[C_1mim]$, $[C_2mim]$, $[C_3mim]$, $[C_4mim]$ and $[C_5mim]$. (Left to right) Cl, Ac and DMP. Isosurfaces indicate 3 times the normal density and the colors indicate (blue) the C_2 atom of the cation and (yellow) the H_1 , H_2 and H_3 atoms of the cation.

