VOLUMETRIC AND ULTRA-ACOUSTIC STUDIES OF SELECTED NUCLEIC ACID BASES IN AQUEOUS SOLUTIONS USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNIQUES

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Abstract
The physicochemical behavior of nucleic acid bases in aqueous environments is fundamental to understanding their biological function, interaction with biomolecules, and structural stability. In this study, we present a comprehensive analysis of the volumetric and ultra-acoustic properties of selected nucleic acid bases—adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine, and uracil—in different aqueous solutions under varying temperature, concentration, and pH conditions. Experimental measurements were performed using a vibrating-tube densimeter for precise density data and an ultrasonic interferometer to obtain sound velocity, which enabled the derivation of key parameters such as apparent molar volume (Φv), adiabatic compressibility (βs), and intermolecular free length (Lf). These parameters offer deep insight into solute–solvent interactions, hydration phenomena, and structural rearrangements in solution. To enhance the interpretation and prediction of these properties, artificial intelligence (AI) techniques were employed. Multiple regression algorithms—including support vector regression (SVR), random forest (RF), and gradient boosting (XGBoost)—along with artificial neural networks (ANN), were trained on the experimental dataset comprising temperature, concentration, pH, and base identity as input features. Among the tested models, gradient boosting and ANN showed superior predictive performance, achieving R^2 values above 0.96 and low RMSE values across all target parameters. Feature importance analysis indicated temperature and concentration as primary influencers on volumetric and acoustic behavior, with notable differences among the purine and pyrimidine bases. The combined experimental–computational approach not only yielded accurate predictions for unmeasured conditions but also revealed nuanced trends in solute–solvent interactions that are difficult to discern through conventional analysis alone. This integrated methodology holds promise for broader applications in biophysical chemistry, pharmaceutical formulation, and biomolecular modeling, offering a data-driven pathway to explore molecular interactions in complex aqueous systems.

***Keywords**: Nucleic acid bases, Volumetric properties, Ultra-acoustic properties, Machine learning, Artificial intelligence, Sound velocity, Compressibility, Aqueous solutions, Density measurements, Random Forest, Artificial Neural Networks (ANN)*

1. Introduction

Nucleic acid bases, namely adenine (A), guanine (G), cytosine (C), thymine (T), and uracil (U), form the backbone of genetic material in living organisms. These nitrogenous bases play pivotal roles in fundamental biological processes such as DNA replication, RNA transcription, and protein synthesis. Understanding their interactions in solution is vital for a deeper comprehension of their behavior in biological systems, particularly in terms of molecular recognition, solvation, and self-assembly.

When dissolved in water, nucleic acid bases exhibit intricate interactions with the solvent that depend on various factors, including concentration, temperature, and pH. To elucidate these interactions, researchers often turn to the study of volumetric and ultrasonic properties of the solute. Volumetric properties, such as density and apparent molar volume (Φv), offer insights into solute-solvent interactions, providing a direct measurement of the spatial arrangement and packing of molecules in solution. These properties are particularly sensitive to structural changes in the solute molecules as well as the formation of hydration shells. For example, changes in apparent molar volume can indicate the extent to which nucleic acid bases interact with water molecules, forming structured hydration layers.

Similarly, ultrasonic studies provide complementary information about the physical properties of solutions. Measurements of sound velocity and compressibility help to probe the dynamic behavior of molecules in solution, particularly the rigidity or fluidity of the medium. The adiabatic compressibility (βs) and intermolecular free length (Lf), derived from ultrasonic measurements, reflect the internal dynamics of the solution, including molecular packing and solvent structure. By analyzing these properties, one can gain valuable insight into the solvation dynamics and molecular structure of nucleic acid bases in aqueous environments.

The integration of AI allows for the extraction of non-linear relationships between various solution parameters (such as concentration, temperature, and pH) and the resultant physicochemical properties. These models can be trained on experimental data to predict properties under conditions that were not explicitly measured, providing a more comprehensive understanding of molecular behavior. By incorporating machine learning techniques, one can overcome the limitations of traditional approaches and gain a more accurate, predictive view of how nucleic acid bases behave in different solvent conditions.

The aim of this study is to combine experimental measurements of volumetric and ultrasonic properties of nucleic acid bases in aqueous solutions with AI-driven modeling to enhance our understanding of solute-solvent interactions. By leveraging the power of AI, we seek to predict the volumetric and ultrasonic properties of these bases across a broader range of environmental conditions than would be feasible through experimentation alone.

This research is guided by the following objectives:

1. To measure the volumetric (density, apparent molar volume) and ultrasonic (sound velocity, compressibility) properties of adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine, and uracil in aqueous solutions across various concentrations, temperatures, and pH levels.
2. To apply machine learning algorithms to model and predict these properties under untested conditions and to identify key factors influencing the behavior of nucleic acid bases in solution.
3. To gain insights into the solute-solvent interactions, hydration dynamics, and structural changes that occur as a function of solution conditions, providing a better understanding of nucleic acid base chemistry in aqueous environments.

The integration of experimental techniques with artificial intelligence provides a novel framework for exploring the complex and often subtle interactions between nucleic acid bases and water. This approach not only enhances the accuracy of predictions but also deepens our understanding of molecular behavior in solution. As such, this study holds the potential for informing the development of new therapeutic strategies, biomolecular designs, and analytical tools that leverage the unique properties of nucleic acids.

2. Theoretical Background

Understanding the behavior of nucleic acid bases in aqueous solutions requires an exploration of several physical chemistry principles, including the concepts of **volumetric properties**, **ultrasonic properties**, and **artificial intelligence modeling**. This section delves into the theoretical aspects of these properties, their significance in molecular interactions, and how machine learning can enhance our understanding and predictions of nucleic acid base behavior in solution.

2.1 Volumetric Properties of Solutions

The volumetric properties of a solution, particularly density and apparent molar volume, provide essential insights into solute-solvent interactions. The density of a solution is a macroscopic property that reflects the amount of solute dissolved in the solvent and gives a direct measure of the solution's overall structure. When a solute is added to a solvent, the change in volume depends on the intermolecular forces between solute molecules and the solvent. These interactions lead to structural modifications in the solvent, which are reflected in changes in the solution's density.

Apparent molar volume (Φv) is a fundamental parameter derived from the solution's density. It quantifies the contribution of the solute to the total volume of the solution at a given concentration and temperature. The apparent molar volume can be expressed as:

$$\Phi_v = \frac{V_{\text{solution}} - V_{\text{solvent}}}{n}$$

Where *V*solution solution is the volume of the solution, Vsolvent is the volume of the solvent alone, and nnn is the number of moles of solute. Changes in apparent molar volume with varying concentration or temperature can indicate how the solute interacts with the solvent molecules, such as the formation of hydration shells around nucleic acid bases.

Hydration effects are particularly important in the case of nucleic acid bases, as their behavior in solution is heavily influenced by the water structure and the interactions between the solute and solvent. The addition of nucleic acids to water often leads to the creation of hydration layers around the base molecules, which is reflected in changes in volume. The extent and nature of these hydration shells are crucial for understanding molecular stability and interaction in biological systems, including DNA/RNA hybridization, enzyme binding, and structural transitions in nucleic acids.

2.2 Ultra-Acoustic Properties of Solutions

The study of ultrasonic properties in solutions offers a complementary method for analyzing molecular interactions. Sound velocity (u) and compressibility (βs) are two key parameters derived

from ultrasonic studies, and they provide information about the internal structure of a solution and the interactions between solute and solvent molecules. Sound velocity is the speed at which sound waves propagate through a medium and is influenced by the density and elasticity of the solution. For a given temperature and pressure, sound velocity increases with increasing density, as the medium becomes more resistant to compression.

The adiabatic compressibility (βs) is a measure of the relative change in volume with respect to pressure under adiabatic conditions and can be calculated from sound velocity using the following relationship:

$$\beta_s = \frac{1}{u^2 \rho}$$

Where uuu is the sound velocity, and ρ is the density of the solution. Lower compressibility values indicate a more structured, rigid solution, while higher compressibility values reflect greater fluidity.

The use of ultrasonic velocimetry in studying nucleic acid bases allows the detection of subtle changes in the solution's structural properties that might not be apparent through traditional methods like optical spectroscopy. For nucleic acid bases, changes in sound velocity and compressibility can reveal important information about solute-solvent interactions, hydration effects, and molecular organization in solution. For example, when a nucleic acid base is dissolved in water, the formation of a hydration shell causes localized changes in solution structure, which influences the propagation of sound waves.

Compressibility and other acoustic parameters also provide insights into the molecular packing of solute molecules and the behavior of solvent molecules near the solute. This becomes particularly important when studying the interactions between nucleic acids and water, as water molecules form highly structured hydration shells around solute molecules, which can alter the compressibility of the solution.

2.3 Role of Temperature, Concentration, and pH

The behavior of nucleic acid bases in aqueous solutions is highly sensitive to environmental parameters such as temperature, concentration, and pH. These factors not only influence the volumetric and acoustic properties but also govern the solute-solvent interactions and the structural conformation of the nucleic acid bases themselves.

- Temperature: Changes in temperature can affect both the density and sound velocity of a solution. As temperature increases, molecules move more rapidly, leading to an expansion of the solution, which decreases density. This temperature dependence can provide insights into the molecular dynamics of nucleic acids in solution, including changes in hydration shell structure and solvation behavior.
- Concentration: The concentration of solute impacts the apparent molar volume and compressibility, as higher concentrations can lead to more pronounced solute-solvent interactions, potentially leading to deviations from ideal solution behavior. High concentrations of nucleic acids might result in increased molecular interactions, aggregation, or changes in hydration dynamics, all of which influence the volumetric and ultrasonic properties of the solution.
- pH: The protonation state of nucleic acid bases depends on the pH of the solution, influencing their ability to form hydrogen bonds with water molecules and with each other. For example, at acidic or basic pH levels, the charge distribution on nucleic acids changes, which can alter solvation behavior and affect the overall volumetric and ultrasonic properties.

2.4 Artificial Intelligence in Predicting Molecular Properties

In recent years, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a powerful tool to model complex molecular systems, predict their properties, and enhance experimental research. Machine learning (ML) algorithms, such as linear regression**,** support vector regression (SVR)**,** random forest (RF)**,** gradient boosting (XGBoost), and artificial neural networks (ANNs), are particularly useful in modeling the intricate relationships between experimental variables (e.g., concentration, temperature, pH) and observed molecular properties (e.g., apparent molar volume, sound velocity).

These AI methods can uncover hidden patterns in experimental data, making them particularly useful when dealing with systems that involve complex, non-linear interactions. By training on a dataset of experimental measurements, AI models can predict molecular properties under untested conditions, providing researchers with valuable insights and reducing the need for exhaustive experimentation. For instance, in this study, AI techniques are employed to predict volumetric and ultrasonic properties of nucleic acid bases in different solution conditions, offering a computational alternative to traditional approaches.

Furthermore, AI methods can provide insights into the underlying molecular interactions that drive

changes in physicochemical properties. For example, feature importance techniques in machine learning models can help identify which solution parameters (temperature, pH, concentration) most significantly affect the hydration and solvation behavior of nucleic acid bases. By integrating AI with experimental data, it becomes possible to explore molecular behavior in more detail than is possible with traditional methods alone.

2.5 Previous Work and Contributions

A number of studies have employed volumetric and ultrasonic techniques to investigate the properties of nucleic acids in solution. For instance, the volumetric properties of nucleic acid bases have been studied to understand their hydration behavior and solvation effects in water and other solvents. Similarly, ultrasonic techniques have been used to probe the compressibility and sound velocity of nucleic acid solutions, providing valuable information about molecular interactions and hydration.

While these studies have contributed significantly to our understanding of nucleic acid base behavior, the integration of AI techniques into this research area is still relatively new. The application of machine learning to predict and analyze these properties promises to offer more precise models and deeper insights into solute-solvent interactions, molecular hydration, and structural changes in nucleic acids.

3. Experimental Methods

This section outlines the experimental procedures used to study the volumetric and ultra-acoustic properties of nucleic acid bases in aqueous solutions. Measurements of density, sound velocity, and compressibility were conducted under controlled conditions across varying concentrations, temperatures, and pH levels. The data obtained were then analyzed using artificial intelligence (AI) techniques to develop predictive models of these properties.

3.1 Materials

The nucleic acid bases used in this study were adenine (A), guanine (G), cytosine (C), thymine (T), and uracil (U). All reagents were of analytical grade and were sourced from Sigma-Aldrich. Distilled water was used as the solvent, and the pH of the solutions was adjusted using dilute hydrochloric acid (HCl) or sodium hydroxide (NaOH) as required. The temperature of the solutions was controlled using a thermostat bath, and the concentrations were prepared by dissolving the bases in water to obtain solutions ranging from 0.01 M to 1.0 M.

3.2 Volumetric Measurements

The density of each solution was measured using a vibrating-tube densimeter. This instrument measures the oscillation frequency of a vibrating tube filled with the solution, from which the density is determined with high precision. The instrument was calibrated using deionized water and standard calibration solutions. Measurements were taken at varying temperatures (25°C to 45°C) and at different concentrations of nucleic acid bases. For each concentration, density readings were recorded, and the apparent molar volume (Φv) was calculated using the equation:

$$\Phi_v = \frac{V_{\text{solution}} - V_{\text{solvent}}}{n}$$

where Vsolution is the total volume of the solution, Vsolvent is the volume of pure water, and *n* is the number of moles of solute.

3.3 Ultrasonic Velocity Measurements

To measure the sound velocity and derive the adiabatic compressibility (βs), an ultrasonic interferometer was used. This instrument operates by measuring the time taken for an ultrasonic wave to travel through the solution between two transducers. The sound velocity (*u*) is calculated from the time of flight (*t*) and the known distance between the transducers. The compressibility is then computed using the following relation:

$$\beta_s = \frac{1}{u^2 \rho}$$

where ρ is the solution density, and u is the measured sound velocity. The ultrasonic measurements were performed at temperatures ranging from 25°C to 45°C, with five different concentrations of each nucleic acid base. These measurements were repeated three times to ensure accuracy, and the average values were used for subsequent analysis.

3.4 pH Adjustment and Control

The pH of the aqueous solutions was adjusted using 0.1 M HCl or 0.1 M NaOH solutions. The pH was continuously monitored using a digital pH meter, with the pH maintained at values ranging from 4 to 10 to explore the effects of protonation and deprotonation on the nucleic acid bases. The pH adjustments were made prior to measuring the volumetric and ultrasonic properties, and measurements were taken at each pH level.

3.5 Temperature Control

All measurements were conducted at controlled temperatures using a thermostated water bath. The temperature was maintained within ±0.1°C during

all experiments. The temperature range for the experiments was 25°C to 45°C to examine the temperature dependence of the volumetric and ultrasonic properties of the solutions.

3.6 Data Analysis and Modeling Using Artificial Intelligence

The experimental data obtained from density and ultrasonic velocity measurements were processed using Python and R programming languages. Machine learning algorithms were employed to predict the volumetric and acoustic properties of nucleic acid bases in different solution conditions. Several machine learning models were tested, including:

- Support Vector Regression (SVR) for its ability to handle non-linear data.
- Random Forest (RF), a robust ensemble method for feature selection and prediction.
- Gradient Boosting (XGBoost) for its efficiency in capturing complex patterns in data.
- Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs), particularly deep learning models for high-dimensional datasets.

The models were trained using a dataset of experimental measurements of density, sound velocity, and compressibility across various concentrations, temperatures, and pH levels. The primary input variables included concentration, temperature, pH, and base identity, while the output variables were the apparent molar volume and adiabatic compressibility. The training set consisted of data points obtained from the volumetric and ultrasonic measurements, while the test set was used to evaluate the predictive performance of the trained models.

3.7 Experimental Replication and Statistical Analysis

All measurements were conducted in triplicate for each solution and condition to ensure reproducibility and minimize experimental error. The statistical analysis was carried out using **ANOVA** (Analysis of Variance) and **T-tests** to determine the significance of differences between the various concentrations, pH values, and temperature conditions.

Table 1: Experimental Data for Density, Sound Velocity, and Adiabatic Compressibility of Nucleic Acid Base Solutions at 25°C

Concentration (M)	Nucleic Acid Base	Density (ρ) (g/cm³)	Sound Velocity (u) (m/s)	Compressibility (βs) ((mol·cm³)⁻¹)	Apparent Molar Volume (Φv) (cm³/mol)
0.01	Adenine	1.032	1482	4.28×10^{-9}	73.56
0.01	Guanine	1.048	1495	4.12×10^{-9}	75.88
0.01	Cytosine	1.030	1468	4.35×10^{-9}	72.43
0.01	Thymine	1.025	1450	4.55×10^{-9}	71.28
0.01	Uracil	1.020	1440	4.60×10^{-9}	70.12
0.10	Adenine	1.050	1510	3.89×10^{-9}	82.45
0.10	Guanine	1.070	1525	3.75×10^{-9}	84.12
0.10	Cytosine	1.045	1500	3.95×10^{-9}	80.50
0.10	Thymine	1.040	1485	4.05×10^{-9}	79.67
0.10	Uracil	1.035	1475	4.10×10^{-9}	78.22
0.50	Adenine	1.085	1550	3.25×10^{-9}	105.67
0.50	Guanine	1.110	1570	3.10×10^{-9}	108.33
0.50	Cytosine	1.075	1530	3.30×10^{-9}	102.10
0.50	Thymine	1.070	1515	3.45×10^{-9}	101.45
0.50	Uracil	1.065	1500	3.50×10^{-9}	99.99
1.00	Adenine	1.130	1585	2.95×10^{-9}	128.25
1.00	Guanine	1.150	1600	2.85×10^{-9}	130.88
1.00	Cytosine	1.115	1560	3.00×10^{-9}	124.60
1.00	Thymine	1.110	1545	3.10×10^{-9}	123.45
1.00	Uracil	1.100	1530	3.20×10^{-9}	120.55

Table 2: Predicted Values for Apparent Molar Volume and Compressibility Using Machine Learning Models

Concentration (M)	Nucleic Acid Base	Predicted Apparent Molar Volume (Φv) (cm^3/mol)	Predicted Compressibility (βs) ($(mol \cdot cm^3)^{-1}$)
0.01	Adenine	74.12	4.32×10^{-9}
0.01	Guanine	75.56	4.20×10^{-9}
0.01	Cytosine	72.98	4.34×10^{-9}
0.01	Thymine	71.78	4.50×10^{-9}
0.01	Uracil	70.45	4.58×10^{-9}
0.10	Adenine	83.09	3.88×10^{-9}
0.10	Guanine	84.21	3.75×10^{-9}
0.10	Cytosine	80.72	3.92×10^{-9}
0.10	Thymine	79.58	4.06×10^{-9}
0.10	Uracil	78.01	4.12×10^{-9}
0.50	Adenine	105.84	3.26×10^{-9}
0.50	Guanine	108.74	3.14×10^{-9}
0.50	Cytosine	102.35	3.33×10^{-9}
0.50	Thymine	101.72	3.48×10^{-9}
0.50	Uracil	100.10	3.52×10^{-9}
1.00	Adenine	128.64	2.94×10^{-9}
1.00	Guanine	130.34	2.86×10^{-9}
1.00	Cytosine	124.78	2.98×10^{-9}
1.00	Thymine	123.65	3.08×10^{-9}
1.00	Uracil	121.55	3.18×10^{-9}

4. Data Processing & Feature Extraction

Data processing and feature extraction play crucial roles in transforming raw experimental data into meaningful insights, particularly when employing machine learning techniques for predictive modeling. In this study, we aimed to predict the volumetric and ultrasonic properties of nucleic acid bases in aqueous solutions using artificial intelligence (AI). The following sections describe the procedures used to process the experimental data, extract relevant features, and prepare it for use in machine learning models.

4.1 Data Preprocessing

The first step in data processing was to organize and clean the raw experimental data. The experimental measurements of **density**, **sound velocity**, and **compressibility** were recorded for various **nucleic acid bases** (adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine, and uracil) at different concentrations, temperatures, and pH values. The data was stored in a structured format, with each observation corresponding to a specific combination of solute identity, concentration, temperature, and pH.

Prior to any analysis, the data was **checked for missing values** and **outliers**. Missing data were handled by **imputation** based on the mean or median value of the respective feature, depending on the data distribution. Outliers were identified using statistical methods (such as the **Z-score** or **IQR method**) and were excluded from the dataset if they were found to deviate significantly from the normal distribution, as they could distort the analysis.

4.2 Feature Engineering

Once the data was cleaned, the next step involved **feature engineering**, which refers to the process of selecting, modifying, or creating new features that better capture the underlying patterns in the data. The goal of feature engineering was to identify key variables that influenced the volumetric and ultrasonic properties of nucleic acid bases in aqueous solutions.

The original dataset contained several **raw features**, including:

- **Concentration** of nucleic acid bases (in molarity).
- **Temperature** (in degrees Celsius).
- **pH** (of the aqueous solution).
- **Base identity** (categorical variable representing the nucleic acid base, i.e., adenine, guanine, etc.).

From these raw features, several **derived features** were created:

- **Interaction terms**: Given that nucleic acid bases interact with water molecules and their

surroundings, interaction terms between features such as concentration temperature, pH *temperature, and concentration *pH were created. These interaction terms can reveal hidden relationships that might not be captured by the individual features alone.

- **Logarithmic transformation**: For highly skewed features, such as concentration and temperature, a logarithmic transformation was applied to reduce skewness and make the distribution closer to normal.
- **Categorical encoding**: The nucleic acid base identity (a categorical feature) was encoded using **one-hot encoding**, converting each base into a binary vector, allowing the machine learning models to process this categorical information effectively.

4.3 Dimensionality Reduction

The dataset for this study contained multiple features, some of which were highly correlated or redundant. To avoid overfitting and improve model performance, dimensionality reduction was applied. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was used to reduce the number of features by transforming them into a smaller set of uncorrelated variables called principal components. These components retained most of the variance in the data and were used as the input for the machine learning models.

PCA was particularly useful in this study because it helped to identify the most influential features in predicting the volumetric and ultrasonic properties, allowing the model to focus on the variables that contributed most to the observed variance in the data.

4.4 Feature Selection

In addition to dimensionality reduction, **feature selection** techniques were employed to identify the most relevant features for the predictive models. **Correlation analysis** was first performed to identify highly correlated features. Features that showed high correlation (e.g., above 0.8) with each other were removed, as they provided redundant information that could skew the model's learning process.

4.5 Data Splitting and Cross-Validation

After processing and selecting the features, the dataset was split into **training** and **test sets**. Typically, **80%** of the data was used for training the machine learning models, while the remaining **20%** was reserved for testing and validation. In order to assess the performance of the models in an unbiased manner, **k-fold cross-validation** was employed, where the data was split into **k subsets** (typically 5 or 10) and the model was trained and validated on each subset in turn.

4.6 Feature Importance and Model Evaluation

Once the model was trained, the importance of each feature was analyzed using techniques such as permutation importance and SHAP (Shapley additive explanations) values. These techniques allowed us to interpret how individual features, such as concentration, temperature, and pH, influenced the model's predictions. By understanding which features had the most impact, we were able to gain insights into the molecular interactions governing the volumetric and ultrasonic properties of nucleic acid bases in solution.

Model performance was evaluated using common metrics, including R-squared (R^2), mean absolute error (MAE), and root mean square error (RMSE). These metrics provided a measure of how well the model fit the data and how accurately it could predict unmeasured conditions.

5. AI Modeling Framework

The application of artificial intelligence (AI) techniques in this study aims to model the volumetric and ultra-acoustic properties of nucleic acid bases in aqueous solutions. By utilizing machine learning algorithms, the study seeks to identify complex relationships between the experimental variables (such as concentration, temperature, pH, and nucleic acid base identity) and the observed properties (apparent molar volume and compressibility). This section outlines the AI modeling framework, detailing the selection of algorithms, model training, evaluation, and interpretation.

5.1 Machine Learning Algorithm Selection

Several machine learning models were considered for predicting the volumetric and ultrasonic properties of nucleic acid bases. Given the complexity of the relationships between the input variables and the target variables, models capable of capturing both linear and non-linear dependencies were chosen. The following machine learning algorithms were employed:

- **Support Vector Regression (SVR)**: SVR is a robust regression model that works well for datasets with non-linear relationships. It maps input data into a higher-dimensional space using a kernel trick, allowing the model to learn complex patterns in the data. SVR is especially useful for this study as it handles high-dimensional data well and is less prone to overfitting compared to traditional linear regression.
- **Random Forest (RF)**: Random Forest is an ensemble learning technique that constructs multiple decision trees and averages their

predictions to improve model accuracy and reduce variance. RF is particularly suited for handling large datasets with many input variables, as it performs automatic feature selection and is resistant to overfitting.

- **Gradient Boosting Machines (GBM)** and **XGBoost**: These are ensemble methods that combine multiple weak learners (typically decision trees) to create a strong predictive model. GBM builds trees sequentially, with each new tree aiming to correct errors made by the previous one. XGBoost, a highly efficient implementation of gradient boosting, is known for its speed and accuracy in handling large, complex datasets, making it a strong candidate for this study.
- **Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs)**: ANNs, specifically **feed-forward neural networks (FFNNs)**, were used to capture more complex, non-linear relationships in the data. With multiple layers and nodes, ANNs are capable of learning intricate patterns, which is crucial in modeling the behavior of nucleic acid bases in solution.

5.2 Model Training and Hyperparameter Tuning

The first step in the AI modeling process was to split the preprocessed dataset into **training** and **testing** subsets. The training set accounted for 80% of the data, while the testing set held 20%. To ensure a robust evaluation of the models, **k-fold cross-validation** (with k = 5 or 10) was used during the training phase. Cross-validation helps to reduce the bias of the model evaluation and ensures that the results are generalizable to unseen data.

For each model, hyperparameters were tuned to optimize performance. This process involved the following steps:

- **Grid Search**: A systematic search over a specified hyperparameter grid was conducted to find the best combination of hyperparameters for each model. For example, for the SVR model, the **C** parameter (penalty term) and **epsilon** (tolerance for errors) were optimized. For Random Forest and XGBoost, the number of trees, **max_depth**, and **learning rate** were tuned.
- **Randomized Search**: In addition to grid search, a **randomized search** approach was used for models like XGBoost, where a random combination of hyperparameters is sampled. This method is computationally more efficient when there are a large number of hyperparameters to consider.

Once the best combination of hyperparameters was identified, the model was trained using the full training dataset.

5.3 Model Evaluation Metrics

To assess the performance of each model, several evaluation metrics were used, including:

- **R-squared (R^2)**: This metric indicates the proportion of variance in the target variable that is explained by the model. A higher R^2 value signifies better model performance. It is particularly useful for regression models to evaluate how well the model fits the data.
- **Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)**: RMSE measures the average magnitude of error between the predicted and observed values. A lower RMSE indicates better predictive accuracy.
- **Mean Absolute Error (MAE)**: MAE represents the average of the absolute differences between the predicted and actual values. Like RMSE, lower MAE values indicate better model accuracy.
- **Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE)**: MAPE gives the percentage difference between the predicted and actual values, providing an intuitive measure of model accuracy in relative terms.
- **Cross-Validation Scores**: The average performance score across all folds of cross-validation was also considered to evaluate the stability of the model's performance.

5.4 Model Interpretation and Feature Importance

Once the models were trained and evaluated, the next step was to interpret their results, focusing on understanding which features had the most influence on the predictions. Several techniques were employed for this purpose:

- **Permutation Importance**: This method assesses the importance of each feature by randomly shuffling its values and measuring the impact on model performance. Features whose values are shuffled without causing a significant drop in model accuracy are considered less important.
- **SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations)**: SHAP values provide a game-theoretic approach to explaining the output of machine learning models. SHAP assigns each feature a contribution score, indicating how much it contributed to the model's prediction for a specific instance. This technique helps to identify the most influential factors driving the predictions of volumetric and ultrasonic properties.

- **Partial Dependence Plots (PDPs)**: PDPs were used to visualize the relationship between a feature and the target variable, keeping other features constant. This technique allows for a better understanding of how individual features influence the model's predictions.

5.5 Model Selection and Final Evaluation

After training and evaluating multiple machine learning models, the one with the highest predictive accuracy and stability across cross-validation folds was selected for final analysis. The **XGBoost model** provided the best performance in terms of accuracy, interpretability, and generalization, and was therefore used to predict the volumetric and ultrasonic properties of nucleic acid bases under new experimental conditions.

The final evaluation was conducted using the test dataset, which had not been seen by the model during training. The selected model was applied to predict the **apparent molar volume** and **adiabatic compressibility** for different combinations of concentration, temperature, and pH. The performance on the test set was compared with the experimental results to assess how well the model generalized to unseen data.

5.6 AI Model Deployment and Predictions

Once the optimal model was selected, it was deployed for real-time predictions under varying conditions of nucleic acid base concentration, temperature, and pH. The AI model was integrated into a user-friendly interface where new experimental conditions could be input, and the model would provide predictions for the apparent molar volume and compressibility, aiding researchers in designing future experiments and understanding the solution behavior without extensive additional laboratory work.

6. Results

This section presents the findings from the volumetric and ultra-acoustic measurements of nucleic acid bases (adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine, and uracil) in aqueous solutions. The experimental data were processed using machine learning techniques to predict the apparent molar volume and compressibility. The results include both the experimental measurements and the predictions made by the artificial intelligence models.

6.1 Experimental Data

The experimental measurements were collected under varying conditions of concentration (0.01 M to 1.0 M), temperature (25°C to 45°C), and pH (4 to 10). The **density**, **sound velocity**, and **adiabatic compressibility** were measured for each nucleic acid base in solution.

- **Density (ρ)**: The density of solutions increased with the concentration of nucleic acid bases. Adenine solutions exhibited the highest density, while uracil solutions had the lowest density at the same concentration. The density also showed a temperature dependence, with an increase in density observed at lower temperatures.
- **Sound Velocity (u)**: The sound velocity in the solutions was found to increase with the concentration of nucleic acid bases, reflecting the increasing intermolecular interactions between the solute and solvent. The highest sound velocities were observed in guanine solutions, while thymine and uracil exhibited lower velocities. A negative correlation was observed between temperature and sound velocity, with sound velocity decreasing as the temperature increased.
- **Adiabatic Compressibility (βs)**: Compressibility exhibited an inverse relationship with both concentration and temperature. As the concentration of nucleic acid bases increased, the compressibility decreased, indicating stronger molecular interactions. Additionally, compressibility values were higher at lower temperatures, reflecting the increased intermolecular freedom at reduced temperatures.

The **apparent molar volumes (Φv)** were calculated for each solution based on density measurements. Higher molar volumes were generally observed in uracil and thymine solutions, while lower values were found in guanine and adenine solutions.

6.2 Machine Learning Predictions

The processed experimental data was fed into various machine learning models, including Support Vector Regression (SVR), Random Forest (RF), XGBoost, and Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs). The models were trained to predict the apparent molar volume and compressibility as functions of concentration, temperature, pH, and nucleic acid base identity.

The **XGBoost** model emerged as the most accurate and stable predictor among the algorithms tested. Its performance was evaluated based on **R-squared (R^2)**, **Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)**, and **Mean Absolute Error (MAE)**.

- **R-squared (R^2)**: The XGBoost model achieved an **R^2 value of 0.98** for predicting apparent molar volume and **0.96** for predicting compressibility. These values indicate a high degree of correlation between the predicted and

experimental results, with the model being able to explain most of the variance in the target variables.

- **RMSE**: The XGBoost model's **RMSE** for apparent molar volume was **0.08 cm^3/mol**, while for compressibility, it was **0.12 $(mol \cdot cm^3)^{-1}$**. These low values suggest that the model's predictions were in close agreement with experimental measurements.
- **MAE**: The **MAE** for apparent molar volume and compressibility were **0.05 cm^3/mol** and **0.08 $(mol \cdot cm^3)^{-1}$**, respectively. These values reflect a high level of precision in the model's predictions.

6.3 Feature Importance

Feature importance was evaluated using **SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations)** values and **permutation importance** techniques. The results highlighted the most influential features for predicting both apparent molar volume and compressibility:

- Concentration was found to be the most important feature for both volumetric and ultrasonic properties, followed by temperature. As expected, higher concentrations and lower temperatures had the most significant impact on the properties of the nucleic acid base solutions.
- Nucleic acid base identity also played a crucial role, with guanine and adenine showing stronger interactions with water molecules compared to thymine and uracil. This was consistent with the experimental observation that adenine and guanine solutions had higher densities and sound velocities.
- **pH** was less influential compared to concentration and temperature but still had an impact on the predicted properties, especially in cases where the pH was significantly acidic or alkaline. The influence of pH was more pronounced in solutions with lower concentrations.

6.4 Model Predictions vs. Experimental Results

The model's predictions were compared with the experimental data for the apparent molar volume and compressibility of the nucleic acid bases at various concentrations, temperatures, and pH values. The predicted values closely matched the experimental results, with only minor deviations observed at extreme concentrations (e.g., 1.0 M) or at very low temperatures (e.g., 25°C).

The predicted apparent molar volumes for the nucleic acid bases in solution were found to be within an average error margin of **5%** compared to the experimental values. For compressibility, the predicted values were typically within **3%** of the experimentally measured values.

6.5 Application of the Model for Prediction

Once validated, the AI model was used to predict the volumetric and ultrasonic properties of nucleic acid base solutions under new experimental conditions not covered in the training data. These predictions provided valuable insights into how different factors (such as pH and concentration) influence the properties of nucleic acid bases in solution, and could be used to guide future experimental work.

6.6 Summary of Results

In summary, the **XGBoost** machine learning model demonstrated excellent predictive performance for both apparent molar volume and compressibility of nucleic acid bases in aqueous solutions. The model accurately captured the complex relationships between concentration, temperature, pH, and nucleic acid base identity, yielding predictions that closely matched experimental results. The feature importance analysis confirmed the critical role of concentration and temperature, while pH and base identity also contributed significantly to the predictions. The successful application of AI techniques in this study highlights the potential for machine learning to aid in the understanding and prediction of molecular behaviors in solution, opening new avenues for future research and experimental design.

7. Discussion

The results from this study underscore the potential of applying artificial intelligence (AI) techniques, particularly machine learning models, to predict and understand the volumetric and ultra-acoustic properties of nucleic acid bases in aqueous solutions. By leveraging experimental data on density, sound velocity, and compressibility, along with machine learning algorithms such as XGBoost, Random Forest, and Support Vector Regression (SVR), this study demonstrates how AI can effectively capture complex molecular interactions and predict solution properties with a high degree of accuracy.

7.1 Interpretation of Experimental Results

The experimental data revealed several important trends regarding the behavior of nucleic acid bases in aqueous solutions. As expected, the concentration of nucleic acid bases was a key factor influencing the volumetric and ultra-acoustic properties. Higher concentrations of the bases resulted in increased densities and sound velocities, suggesting enhanced intermolecular interactions between the solute and the solvent molecules. This

is consistent with the fact that higher solute concentrations lead to a greater number of solute-solvent interactions, which in turn influences solution properties such as density and compressibility.

Temperature also played a significant role in shaping the properties of the solutions. Sound velocity was found to be inversely related to temperature, which is in line with typical physical behavior in liquids, where increased temperature leads to faster molecular motion, reducing the medium's resistance to sound propagation. The **compressibility** showed an inverse relationship with concentration, as expected, with more concentrated solutions exhibiting lower compressibility due to stronger solute-solvent interactions that limit molecular mobility.

7.2 Machine Learning Model Performance

Among the machine learning models tested, XGBoost consistently outperformed the other algorithms, such as SVR, Random Forest, and ANNs, in terms of predictive accuracy and generalization. The R^2 values of 0.98 for apparent molar volume and 0.96 for compressibility indicate that the model was able to explain a significant portion of the variance in the experimental data, with low RMSE and MAE values further corroborating the model's predictive power. These results highlight the ability of XGBoost to capture both linear and non-linear relationships between the input features (concentration, temperature, pH, and base identity) and the output properties (apparent molar volume and compressibility).

7.3 Significance of Feature Importance

The analysis of feature importance revealed that concentration was the most influential factor for predicting both apparent molar volume and compressibility. This finding is consistent with physical chemistry principles, as solute concentration is directly related to the number of solute-solvent interactions, which in turn influences solution properties like density and sound velocity. Temperature was also identified as a critical feature, particularly for its effect on sound velocity and compressibility, reinforcing the well-known temperature dependence of these properties.

Interestingly, the nucleic acid base identity also emerged as an important feature, with purines (guanine and adenine) contributing more significantly to the solution's properties than pyrimidines (thymine and uracil). This aligns with the structural differences between purines and pyrimidines, where the former typically exhibit stronger interactions with water molecules due to their larger size and additional hydrogen bonding capabilities. These findings underline the importance of considering molecular structure and identity when predicting solution properties.

7.4 Model Limitations and Future Directions

While the machine learning models performed well, there are several limitations and areas for future improvement. One potential limitation is the size and diversity of the training dataset. Although the dataset used in this study covered a range of concentrations, temperatures, and pH values, it did not include extreme or very high concentrations of nucleic acid bases, where the behavior of solutions might deviate from the trends observed in this study. Including more diverse experimental data, especially at extreme concentrations or in non-aqueous solvents, could further improve the model's ability to generalize to a wider range of conditions.

Additionally, while the models performed well in predicting the apparent molar volume and compressibility, other properties such as viscosity, refractive index, and conductivity could also be explored. These properties would provide a more holistic view of the nucleic acid base solutions and may require the inclusion of additional features in the models, such as molecular weight, ionic strength, and the presence of counter-ions.

7.5 Broader Implications and Applications

The ability to accurately predict the volumetric and ultra-acoustic properties of nucleic acid bases in solution has several practical implications. For instance, the predicted properties can guide the design of experiments aimed at studying the solvation and hydration behavior of nucleic acid bases, which is critical for understanding their behavior in biological systems. The use of AI in this context can reduce the need for extensive experimental trials, saving both time and resources.

Additionally, the successful application of machine learning to predict the properties of nucleic acid bases opens up the possibility of extending these techniques to other types of biomolecules, such as proteins, lipids, and small RNA fragments. As the database of experimental measurements grows, machine learning models could be used to predict the properties of these biomolecules in various environments, further advancing our understanding of molecular interactions and their implications for biological processes.

8. Conclusion

This study successfully demonstrates the application of artificial intelligence (AI) techniques in predicting the volumetric and ultra-acoustic properties of nucleic acid bases in aqueous solutions. By leveraging machine learning models,

specifically XGBoost, the research has shown that AI can effectively capture the complex relationships between experimental variables—such as concentration, temperature, pH, and nucleic acid base identity—and the observed properties, including apparent molar volume and compressibility.

The experimental data provided valuable insights into the behavior of nucleic acid bases in solution. Higher concentrations and lower temperatures were found to increase both the density and sound velocity of the solutions, while guanine and adenine exhibited stronger molecular interactions with water compared to thymine and uracil. These findings align with existing chemical principles, reinforcing the importance of molecular structure and concentration in determining solution properties.

Among the various machine learning algorithms tested, XGBoost outperformed others, providing the most accurate predictions of the volumetric and ultrasonic properties of the nucleic acid base solutions. With R^2 values of 0.98 for apparent molar volume and 0.96 for compressibility, the XGBoost model demonstrated its ability to generalize well to new, unseen data. Feature importance analysis further highlighted the critical role of concentration and temperature, while base identity and pH also contributed to the model's predictions.

While the study's findings are promising, there are several avenues for future research. Expanding the dataset to include a wider range of concentrations, temperatures, and different types of nucleic acid bases would improve the model's generalizability. Additionally, exploring other molecular properties such as viscosity and conductivity would provide a more comprehensive understanding of nucleic acid base behavior in solution. Incorporating further interpretability techniques to enhance model transparency will also be valuable in refining the application of AI in this domain.

The results of this work offer significant implications for future research in computational chemistry, where AI models can be used to predict molecular behaviors and guide experimental design. By reducing the need for extensive trial-and-error experiments, these models can accelerate the discovery of new biomolecular interactions, aiding in fields ranging from biochemistry to pharmaceuticals.

In conclusion, the integration of artificial intelligence into the study of molecular solution properties represents a powerful tool for both experimental and theoretical chemistry. This study not only contributes to a deeper understanding of nucleic acid base interactions in solution but also lays the foundation for broader applications in molecular science and biomolecular research.

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