



# Characterising Ionic Liquids using the Quartz Crystal Microbalance

Nicola Doy, Rile Ge, Dr Michael Newton,  
Prof Glen McHale, [Dr Paul Roach](#), Prof Chris Hardacre

School of Science and Technology  
Nottingham Trent University  
United Kingdom

# Introduction

- Quartz Crystal Microbalance (QCM) to obtain Viscosity-density product
- Room Temperature Ionic Liquids
- Experimental Set-up
- Results
  - Fundamental vs. Harmonics
  - Two diluted ionic liquids
  - 19 Pure ionic liquids of varying viscosities
- Conclusions



Stored Room temperature Ionic Liquids

# Quartz Crystal Microbalance QCM

## Thickness Shear Mode Vibration

Piezoelectric crystal

Frequency given by quartz thickness

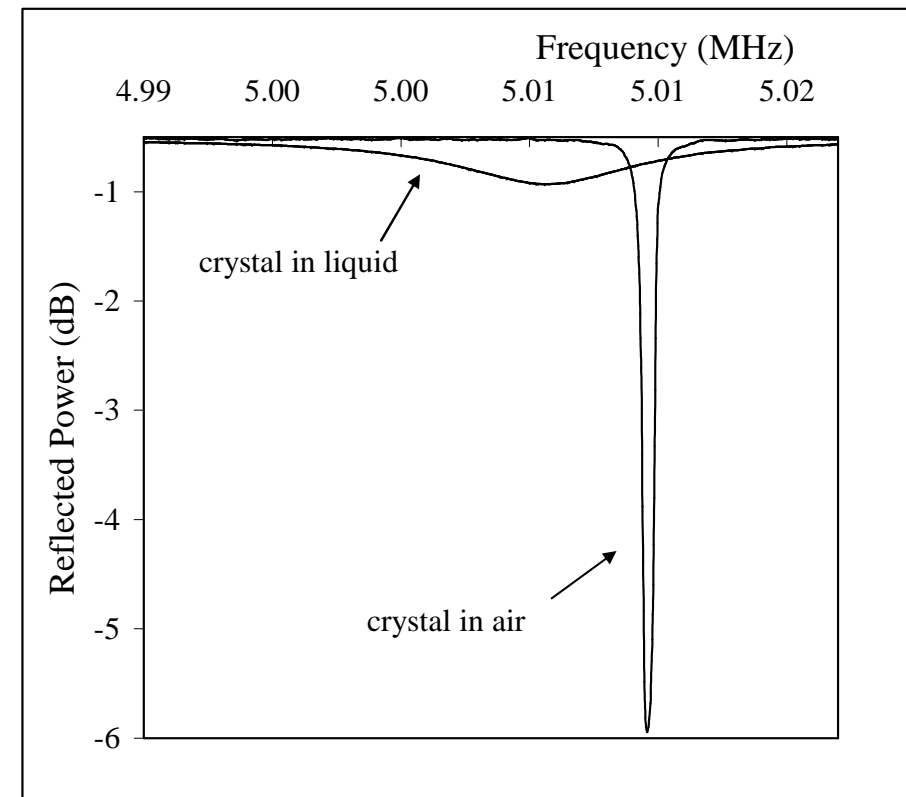
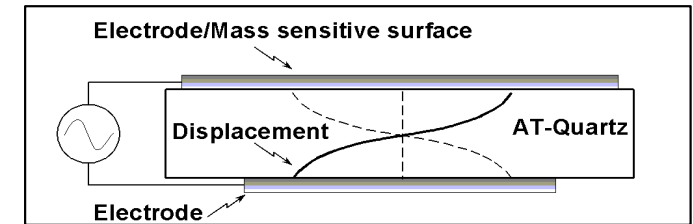
Sharp resonance

Frequency reduces and resonance broadens due to mass in interfacial layer.

$$\delta = 2\eta_{\text{liq}}/(\rho_{\text{liq}}\omega) \text{ where } \omega = 2\pi f$$

$$\text{Kanazawa \& Gordon}^1 \Rightarrow \Delta f \propto -\sqrt{(n\eta\rho)} f^{3/2}$$

*Frequency is sensitive to the viscosity density product for Newtonian liquids*



# Room Temperature Ionic Liquids

**Liquids comprised  
solely of ions  
which are liquid at  
room temperature**

Useful properties:-

- Low volatility
- Non flammable
- Good liquid range



# Experimental Set-up

- 5MHz Polished Crystal in a PTFE QCM holder
- Measurements made on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> harmonic



# Experimental Set-up

- 5MHz Polished Crystal in a PTFE QCM holder
- Measurements made on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> harmonic
- 40 $\mu$ l liquid under argon





# Experimental Set-up

- 5MHz Polished Crystal in a PTFE QCM holder
- Measurements made on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> harmonic
- 40 $\mu$ l liquid under argon
- Brookfield (MA, USA) DV-II+ Programmable viscometer (1.5ml), and a DMA 4500 Density meter (0.5ml). Karl-Fischer titration for water content measurements



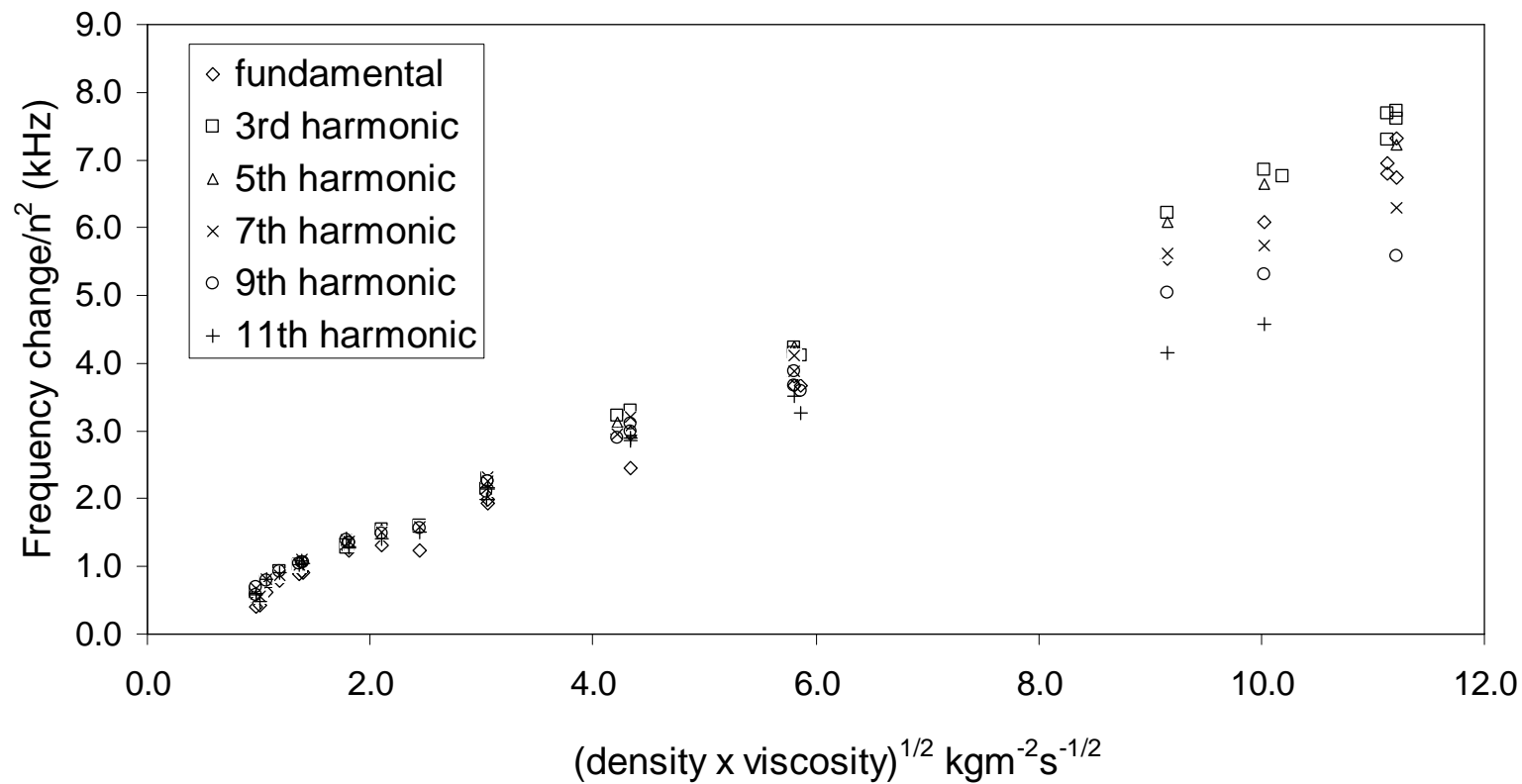
# Results: Harmonic data

Kanazawa & Gordon Equation:

[C<sub>4</sub>mim][OTf]

$$\frac{\Delta f}{f_o} = - \left( \frac{nf_o \rho_l \eta_l}{\pi \rho_q \eta_q} \right)^{1/2} \quad \frac{\Delta f}{\sqrt{n}} = -c f_o^{3/2} \sqrt{\rho \eta}$$

$$c = 2.46 \times 10^{14} \text{ kg}^2/\text{m}^4/\text{s}^2$$

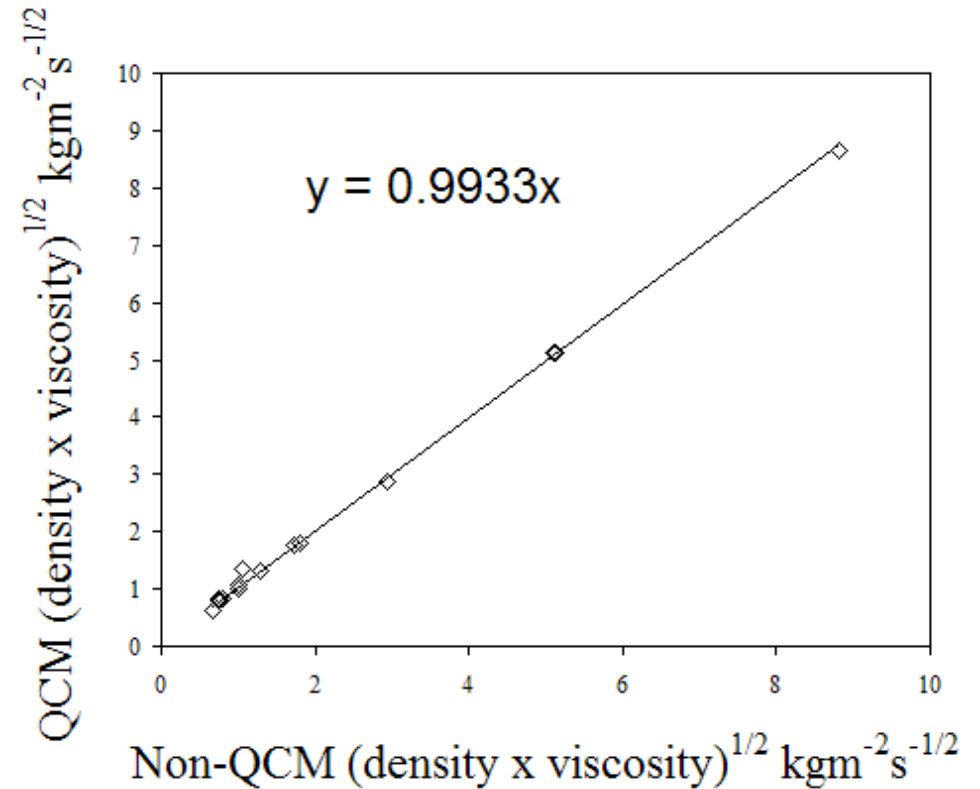
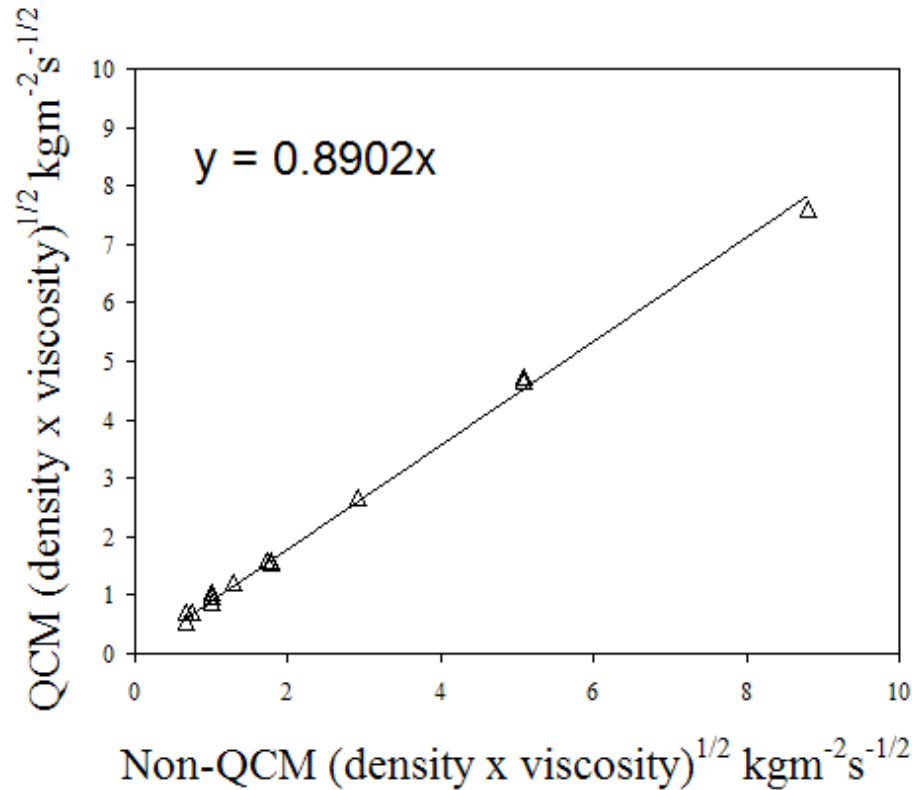




# Harmonic data agreement

Water miscible – diluted with water

[C<sub>4</sub>mim][OTf]

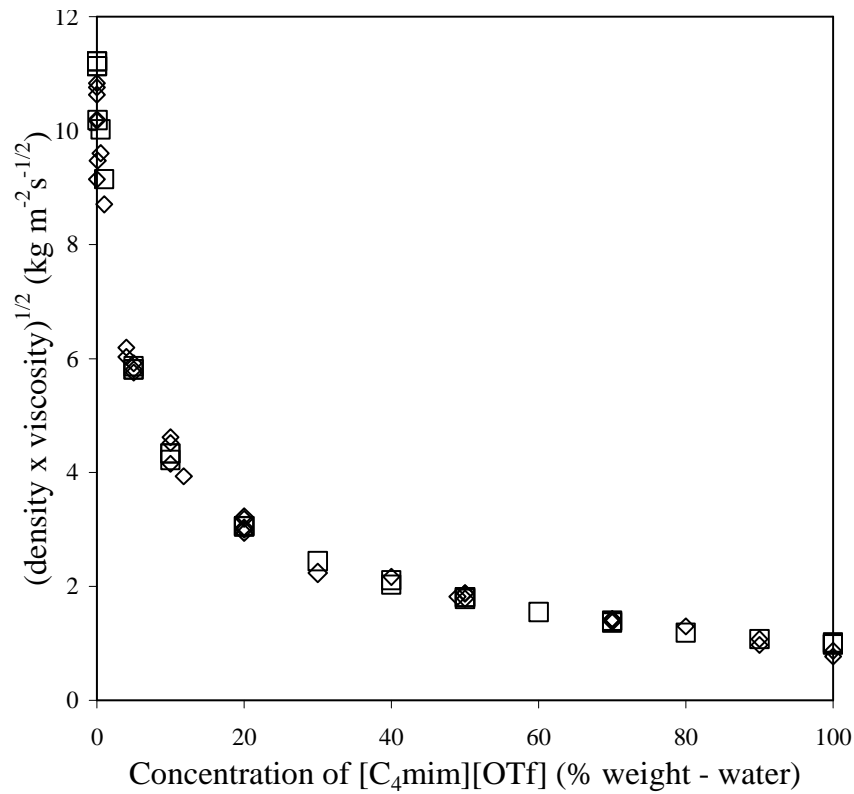


**Better agreement with 3<sup>rd</sup> harmonic**

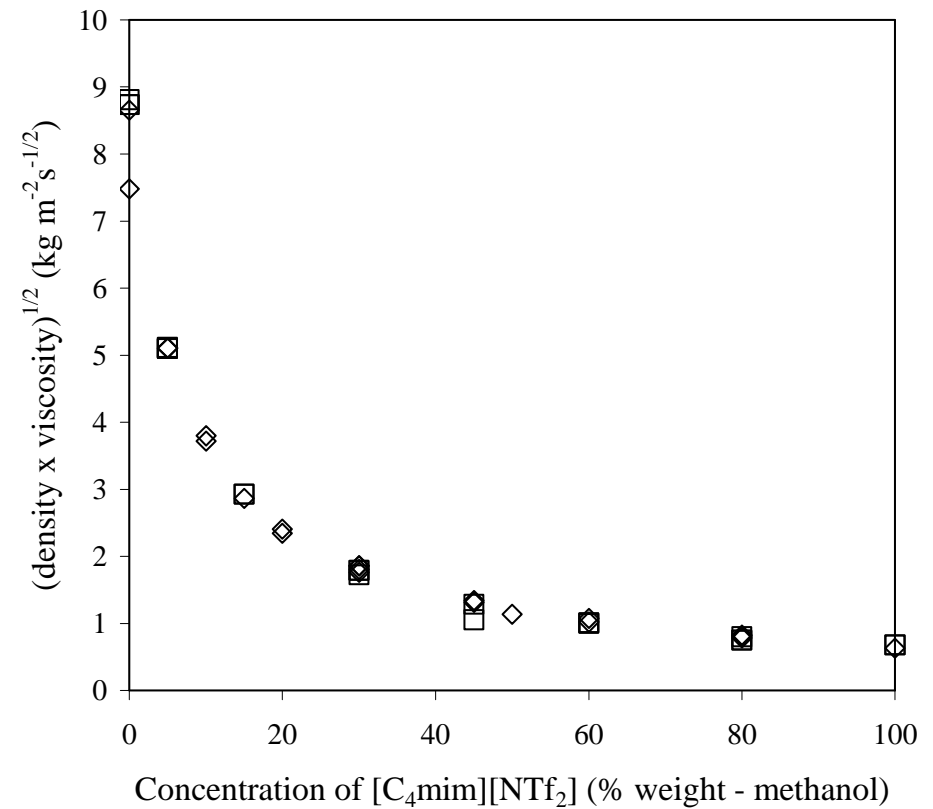
# Results – Varying concentration of ILs

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Harmonic data

Water miscible IL [C<sub>4</sub>mim][OTf]



Water immiscible IL [C<sub>4</sub>mim][NTf<sub>2</sub>]



QCM data



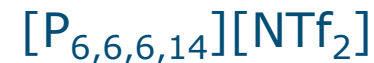
non-QCM data

# Pure Ionic Liquids

## Water Miscible

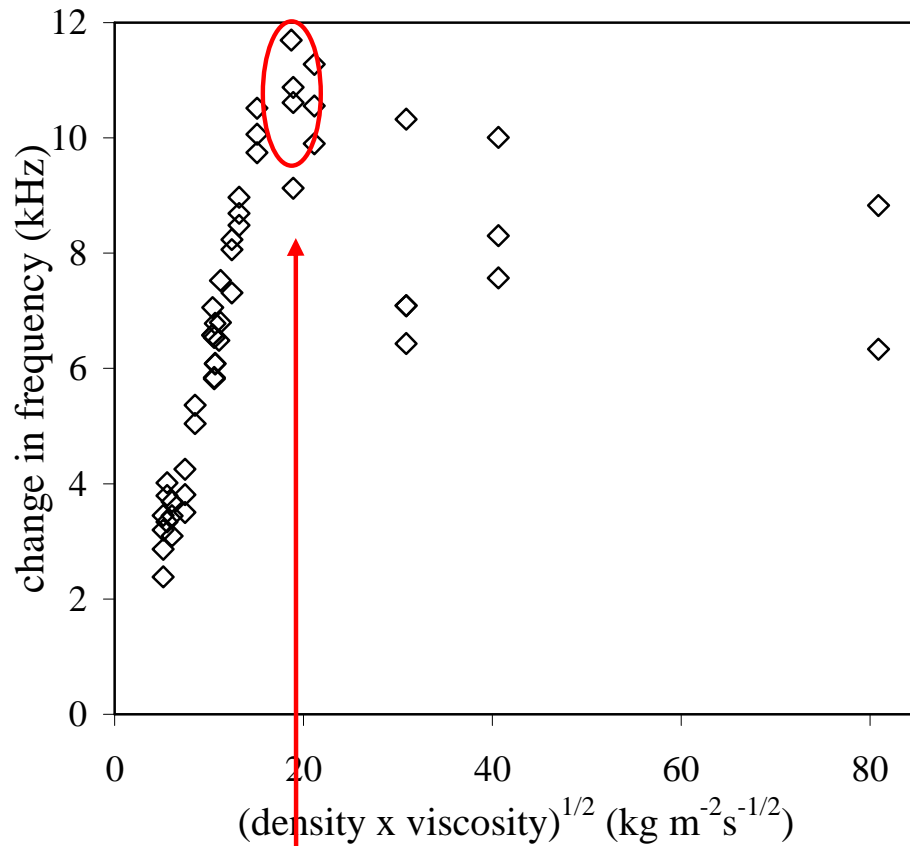


## Water Immiscible

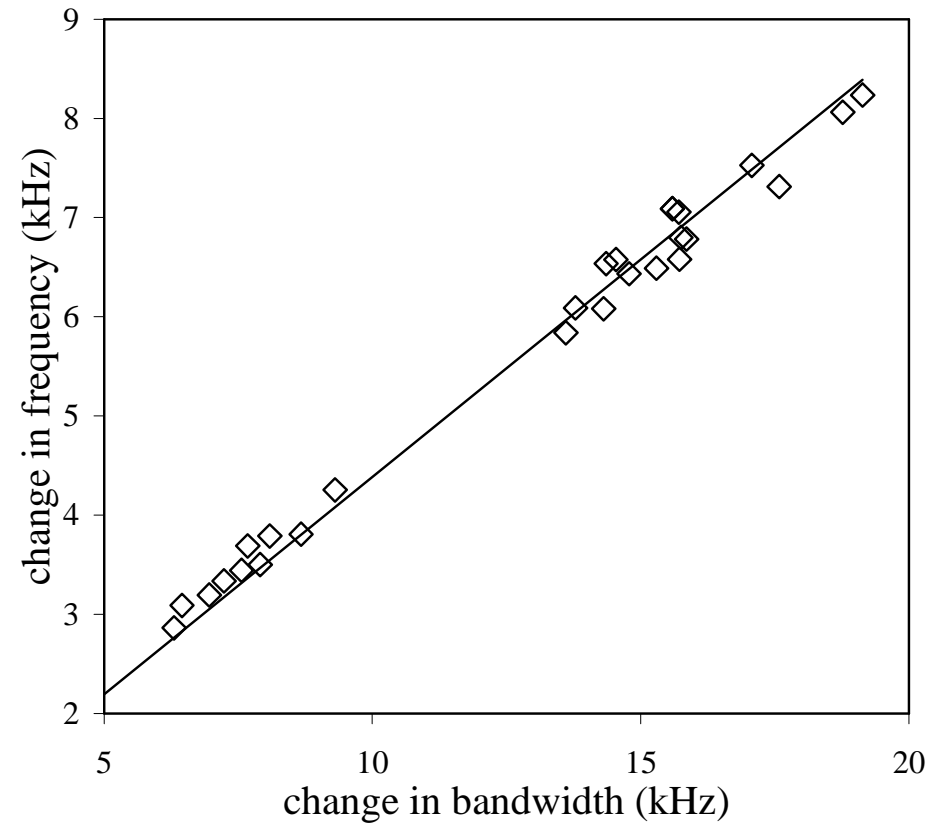


$\sqrt{(\eta\rho)}$  ranges from  
5  $\rightarrow$  80 kgm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1/2</sup>

# 19 Pure Ionic Liquids



Clear limit just below  $20 \text{ kg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1/2}$



Shows Newtonian behaviour

# Conclusions

- QCM can be used to measure the  $\sqrt{(\eta\rho)}$  of small volumes of RTILs
- Improved agreement on 3<sup>rd</sup> Harmonic
- A practical limit of just below 20 kg m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1/2</sup>
  - when using the Kanazawa & Gordon equation to measure 19 pure ionic liquids.
- Possible use for lab-on a chip: characterising ionic liquids

## Acknowledgements

NOTTINGHAM  
TRENT UNIVERSITY 

David Parker

**EPSRC** Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council

Under grants EP/D03826X/1,  
EP/D038294/1 and EP/D038995/1.

