Investigating the Properties of Aqueous Monoisopropanolamine Using Density Data from 283.15 K to 353.15 K

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Abstract The published isothermal density data of aqueous monoisopropanolamine (MIPA) for different temperatures are converted into molar volumes as a function of composition. Tikhonov regularization is applied to obtain the derivatives of molar volume with respect to composition. These derivatives are used to compute the two partial molar volumes of the aqueous solution covering the entire composition range and for all the temperatures reported. A second application of Tikhonov regularization is then used to obtain the partial molar coefficients of the thermal expansion of the solution under constant pressure. This is followed by an examination of the second derivative of the partial molar volumes with respect to temperature over the entire composition range. The signs of these derivatives, for different compositions and temperatures, allow the change in the molecular interaction between MIPA and water in aqueous solution to be discussed.

Keywords Aqueous monoisopropanolamine · Partial molar volumes · Thermal expansion · Coefficient · Tikhonov regularization

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1 Introduction

Aqueous monoisopropanolamine (MIPA) is one of the several alkanolamine solutions used in the absorption of carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and hydrogen sulfide gases in the process industry. As an absorption agent, MIPA is less widely used than, for example, monoethanolamine or diethanolamine, but it is said to have the advantage of a higher reaction rate with some of these gases when compared to the more common alkanolamines [\[1](#page-15-0)]. A quick examination of the patent literature reveals that MIPA is the starting material in many laboratory and industrial organic synthesis processes. It is also an important constituent, serving variously as a stabilizer, emulsifier, and pH control agent, in the formulation of a large number of industrial, household, pharmaceutical, and cosmetic products. Apart from their practical importance, the thermodynamic and transport properties of the MIPA–water system are also of fundamental interest to physical chemists and consequently these have been reported by a number of investigators [\[2](#page-15-1)[–6\]](#page-15-2).

The aim of this research is to apply the recently reported Tikhonov regularization technique [\[7](#page-15-3),[8\]](#page-15-4) in order to convert the density data of aqueous MIPA reported by Mokraoui et al. [\[4\]](#page-15-5) into partial molar volumes $\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}$ and \overline{V}_{W} of MIPA and water, respectively. This new technique allows the partial molar volumes to be obtained more easily and more reliably. The data in [\[4](#page-15-5)] include not only the density at closely spaced compositions, but also the density at a series of regularly spaced temperatures *T*. Through a second application of Tikhonov regularization, the non-isothermal partial molar volumes at fixed compositions are converted into isobaric coefficients of thermal expansion of aqueous MIPA over the entire composition range and for the range of temperatures reported in [\[4\]](#page-15-5). Variations of the partial molar volumes with temperature and composition are then examined with the objective of detecting the change, if any, in the interaction between MIPA and water molecules in the aqueous solution.

2 Molar Volume Data and Numerical Method

Mokraoui et al. [\[4\]](#page-15-5) measured the mass density $\rho(x_W)$ of aqueous MIPA solutions, at atmospheric pressure, for $283.15 \text{ K} \leq T \leq 353.15 \text{ K}$ [\[4](#page-15-5)]. For each *T*, they tabulated the density at 21 different mole fractions of water between the range of $0.0438 \le$ $x_W < 0.9600$. These data are converted into molar volume by using the following simple expression,

$$
v(x_{\rm W}) = \frac{x_{\rm W}M_{\rm W} + (1 - x_{\rm W})M_{\rm MIPA}}{\rho(x_{\rm W})},
$$
\n(1)

where M_{MIPA} and M_{W} are the molar masses of MIPA and water, respectively. As $v(x_W)$ can be computed directly from the tabulated $\rho(x_W)$ data in [\[4](#page-15-5)], they will not be presented here. For each temperature, the resulting $v(x_W)$ data are extended to include that of pure MIPA and pure water. The densities of the pure components at different temperatures are taken from [\[4](#page-15-5)] for MIPA and [\[9](#page-15-6)] for water.

The partial molar volumes $\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}$ and \overline{V}_{W} are related to $v(x_{\text{W}})$ by [\[10](#page-15-7)]

$$
\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}} = v - x_{\text{W}} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x_{\text{W}}}, \quad \overline{V}_{\text{W}} = v + x_{\text{MIPA}} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x_{\text{W}}}
$$
(2)

with the understanding that the temperature and pressure are held fixed in these partial derivatives. For simplicity, subscripts normally used to indicate the thermodynamic variables that are being held fixed have been omitted here and in most of the subsequent derivatives. The critical step in applying Eq. [2](#page-2-0) to obtain the partial molar volumes is the differentiation of the experimental $v(x_W)$ data. If this is not carefully performed, the differentiation operation will amplify the measurement noise in $v(x_W)$, leading to a noisy derivative and consequently unreliable partial molar volumes [\[7\]](#page-15-3). The usual practice is to fit low-order polynomials to the experimental data and compute the required derivatives by differentiating the fitted curves. It is well known that two different fitted curves that describe the same set of $v(x_W)$ data to the same degree of accuracy do not necessarily have derivatives that are in agreement with one another. This is because differentiation is likely to amplify the local and usually minor differences between two nearly identical fitted curves [\[7](#page-15-3)]. The Tikhonov regularization procedure used to compute the partial derivative $\partial v/\partial x_{W}$ in this research has a built-in regularization parameter λ that is able to keep the noise amplification under control [\[7](#page-15-3)]. The mathematical principles of the Tikhonov regularization procedure can be found in $[7,8]$ $[7,8]$ $[7,8]$. Some of its advantages over existing curve fitting methods, when applied to evaluate isothermal partial molar volumes of a number of different binary solutions, are discussed in $[8,11,12]$ $[8,11,12]$ $[8,11,12]$ $[8,11,12]$. Apart from the short description in the following paragraph to introduce the key equations of Tikhonov regularization, detailed development of this procedure and its implementation on computers will be omitted. Interested readers are directed particularly to [\[8\]](#page-15-4).

For the purpose of introducing Tikhonov regularization, it is convenient to denote the first and second derivatives of $v(x_W)$ by $r(x_W) = \partial v / \partial x_W$ and $f(x_W) = \partial^2 v / \partial x_W^2$. In terms of these derivatives, $v(x_W)$ is given by [\[13\]](#page-15-10)

$$
v^{C}(x_{W}) = \int_{x'=0}^{x_{W}} (x_{W} - x') f(x') dx' + v_{0} + x_{W} r_{0}.
$$
 (3)

Superscript C is used to distinguish the computed molar volume from its experimentally measured counterpart, which will be denoted by $v^M(x_W)$. Equation [3](#page-2-1) is exact and is based on a two-term Taylor's series expansion of $v(x_W)$ about $x_W = 0$. The integral on the right-hand side of Eq. [3](#page-2-1) is the remainder term of the Taylor's series in integral form [\[13](#page-15-10)]. Tikhonov regularization solves this equation for the unknown second derivative $f(x_W)$ together with the unknown constants $r(0) = r_0$ and $v(0) = v_0$, i.e., the value of the first derivative and that of the molar volume of pure water. This is achieved by finding the discretized $f(x_W)$ and the constants r_0 and v_0 that minimize the sum of the squares of the differences between the experimental data $v^M(x_W)$ and the back-calculated $v^C(x_W)$. In processing the $v(x_W)$ data sets from [\[4\]](#page-15-5), the choice of the regularization parameter λ is guided by general cross validation (GCV) [\[14](#page-15-11)]. An appropriate λ will ensure that the resulting $f(x_{W})$ does not show excessive and physically unreal fluctuations.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Partial Molar Volumes

For each set of the $v(x_W)$ data, the discretized $f(x_W)$ given by Tikhonov regularization is integrated to yield the first derivative $r(x_W)$ needed in Eq. [2.](#page-2-0) For checking purposes, this first derivative is further integrated to give the back-calculated specific volume $v^C(x_W)$, and this is compared against the corresponding experimental specific volume data $v^M(x_W)$. Since numerical integration is a well-behaved operation that does not amplify noise, these two integration steps were carried out using standard commercial software. For all the cases investigated, the average difference between $v^M(x_W)$ and $v^{\text{C}}(x_{\text{W}})$ is less than a tiny fraction of 1%, thereby confirming the reliability of the derivatives generated by Tikhonov regularization.

The partial molar volumes \overline{V}_{W} and that of \overline{V}_{MIPA} obtained by substituting $r(x_W)$ = $\partial v/\partial x_W$ and $v^C(x_W)$ into Eq. [2](#page-2-0) are tabulated in Table [1.](#page-4-0) They cover the entire composition range $0 \leq x_{W} \leq 1$ and all the temperatures investigated by Mokraoui et al. [\[4](#page-15-5)]. These partial molar volumes have been compared against that obtained by using the least-squares fitted parameters reported in [\[4\]](#page-15-5), and they are found to be in very satisfactory agreement. Compared to the least-squares procedure reported in [\[4](#page-15-5)], the Tikhonov regularization procedure is computationally simpler even though the mathematical analysis behind it may appear to be more complex.

To examine the overall behaviors of \overline{V}_{W} and \overline{V}_{MIPA} generated by Tikhonov regularization, they are shown graphically in Fig. [1a](#page-7-0) and b. In these plots, the temperature varied from $T = 283.15$ K for the bottommost curve to $T = 353.15$ K for the topmost curve. The temperatures for the in-between curves are as listed in Table [1.](#page-4-0) The most prominent features of the partial molar volume curves are the large minima exhibited by all the $\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}$ curves in the neighborhood of $x_W = 0.9$ (Fig. [1a](#page-7-0)). As required by the Gibbs–Duhem relationship between the partial molar volumes of binary solutions, at each of these minima of the $\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}$ curves, the \overline{V}_{W} curves exhibit a maximum. These maxima are much smaller in size, and consequently some of them do not show up clearly in the curves in Fig. [1b](#page-7-0). However, they can be observed in enlarged localized plots.

The partial molar volume plots in Fig. [1](#page-7-0) show that, for any x_W , both $\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}$ and \overline{V}_W increase with T . At some isolated x_W , the partial molar volume curves can become closely bunched up, but they do not appear to intersect one another. In particular, both of the partial molar volumes at infinite dilution, i.e., V_{MIPA} at $x_w = 1$ and V_w at $x_w = 0$, increase with *T*. These are in a satisfactory agreement with the recent corrected partial molar volumes at infinite dilution reported by Mokraoui et al. [\[5](#page-15-12)].

3.2 Coefficients of Thermal Expansion

An important material property of solutions undergoing constant pressure heating is the isobaric coefficient of thermal expansion defined by $\alpha = (1/v)\partial v/\partial T$. For a binary solution such as aqueous MIPA, starting from the expression $v = x_W \overline{V}_{W}$ + $(1 - x_W)\overline{V}_{MIPA}$, α can be expressed in terms of partial molar quantities,

*V*Ww are in cm³ · mol⁻¹

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Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Fig. 1 Partial molar volumes of MIPA and water for temperatures between 283.15 K (*bottommost curve*) and 353.15 K (*topmost*) at 5 K intervals: (**a**) MIPA and (**b**) water

$$
\alpha = \frac{1}{v} \frac{\partial [x_{\rm W} \overline{V}_{\rm W} + (1 - x_{\rm W}) \overline{V}_{\rm MIPA}]}{\partial T}
$$

= $\frac{x_{\rm W} \overline{V}_{\rm W}}{v} \frac{1}{\overline{V}_{\rm W}} \frac{\partial \overline{V}_{\rm W}}{\partial T} + \frac{(1 - x_{\rm W}) \overline{V}_{\rm MIPA}}{v} \frac{1}{\overline{V}_{\rm MIPA}} \frac{\partial \overline{V}_{\rm MIPA}}{\partial T}$
= $\overline{\phi}_{\rm W} \overline{\alpha}_{\rm W} + \overline{\phi}_{\rm MIPA} \overline{\alpha}_{\rm MIPA}$, (4)

where

$$
\overline{\phi}_{\text{MIPA}} = \frac{(1 - x_{\text{W}})\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}}{v}, \quad \overline{\phi}_{\text{W}} = \frac{x_{\text{W}}\overline{V}_{\text{W}}}{v}
$$
(5)

and

$$
\overline{\alpha}_{\text{MIPA}} = \frac{1}{\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}} \frac{\partial \overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}}{\partial T}, \quad \overline{\alpha}_{\text{W}} = \frac{1}{\overline{V}_{\text{W}}} \frac{\partial \overline{V}_{\text{W}}}{\partial T}.
$$
 (6)

Equation [5](#page-7-1) can be regarded as the definition of partial molar volume fractions and Eq. [6](#page-7-2) as the definition of partial molar coefficients of thermal expansion.

In evaluating the partial derivatives in Eq. [6,](#page-7-2) it is understood that both pressure *P* and x_W are held fixed. This is achieved by treating the computed \overline{V}_{MIPA} and \overline{V}_W in Table [1](#page-4-0) as functions of *T* with composition x_W held at a fixed value. Examples of constant composition plots are shown in Fig. [2a](#page-8-0) and b for $\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}$ and Fig. [2c](#page-8-0) for \overline{V}_{W} . For clarity, the constant composition data for $\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}$ are shown in two separate plots. In order that the $\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}$ data for $x_W = 0$, i.e., for pure MIPA, can be clearly observed, these are shown in Fig. [2b](#page-8-0) instead of Fig. [2a](#page-8-0). Based on the data available, there are only 15 points on each of the constant composition curves and these points are at a comparatively large temperature interval of 5 K. It is essential to allow for this paucity of data when considering all the subsequent results.

Fig. 2 Variation of partial molar volumes with temperature at constant composition. Discrete points in (**a**) and (**b**) are for MIPA and those in (**c**) are for water. **i**: $x_W = 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9;$ A: $x_W = 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9$ 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8; \blacklozenge : $x_W = 0.0$; and \blacklozenge : $x_W = 1.0$. Continuous curve in (**a**) is the back-calculated $\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}^{\text{C}}(T)$ for $x_W = 0.5$; those in (**b**) are for $x_W = 0.6$ (*upper curve*) and 0.9 (*lower curve*). Continuous curves in (**c**) are $\overline{V}_{\rm W}^{\rm C}(T)$ for $x_{\rm W} = 0.1$ (*lower curve*), 0.4 (*middle curve*), and 0.7 (*upper curve*)

Tikhonov regularization is now applied to evaluate the second derivatives $\partial^2 \overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}/$ ∂T^2 and $\partial^2 \overline{V}_W / \partial T^2$ of the constant *x*_W data. The basic steps are the same as in the evaluation of $\partial^2 v/\partial x_W^2$. Because of the smaller number of points in each of the constant x_W data sets, the regularization parameter λ is now guided by the Morozov principle instead of GCV [\[7](#page-15-3)]. As before, the second derivatives are integrated once to yield $\partial \overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}/\partial T$ and $\partial \overline{V}_{\text{W}}/\partial T$ and then integrated a second time to give the back-calculated $\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}^{\text{C}}(T)$ and $\overline{V}_{\text{W}}^{\text{C}}(T)$. The reliability of the derivatives with respect to *T* are, again as before, checked by comparing the back-calculated partial molar volumes with the discrete points in Fig. [2.](#page-8-0) Typical examples of the back-calculated $\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}^{\text{C}}(T)$ and $\overline{V}_{W}^{C}(T)$ are shown as continuous curves in Fig. [2.](#page-8-0) In general, the average difference

Fig. 3 Partial molar coefficients of thermal expansion as a function of temperature. Composition is indicated by the figure next to each of the curves: (**a**), (**b**) MIPA and (**c**), (**d**) water

between the discrete points and the continuous $\overline{V}_{W}^{C}(T)$ and $\overline{V}_{MIPA}^{C}(T)$ curves is again less than a small fraction of 1%.

The $\overline{\alpha}_{MIPA}$ and $\overline{\alpha}_{W}$ obtained by substituting $\partial \overline{V}_{MIPA}/\partial T$ and $\partial \overline{V}_{W}/\partial T$ together with $\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}^{\text{C}}(T)$ and $\overline{V}_{\text{W}}^{\text{C}}(T)$ into Eq. [6](#page-7-2) are tabulated in Tables [2](#page-10-0) and [3](#page-11-0) and plotted in Fig. [3.](#page-9-0)

Figure [3a](#page-9-0) shows that, for $0 \le x_W \le 0.5$, all the $\overline{\alpha}_{MIPA}$ curves are closely bunched up. The accuracy of the numerical results is unable to resolve them reliably. But it is clear that all these $\overline{\alpha}_{MIPA}$ increase slightly with increasing *T*. Figure [3b](#page-9-0) shows that, for $x_W \geq 0.6$, the $\overline{\alpha}_{MIPA}$ curves begin to spread out and increase significantly as x_W becomes larger, attaining a maximum at $x_W \approx 0.9$. Beyond that, the $\overline{\alpha}_{MIPA}$ curve drops significantly. This change in trend is clearly tied with extrema in the partial molar volumes in the neighborhood of $x_W = 0.9$. As shown in Fig. [3a](#page-9-0), all the $\overline{\alpha}_{MIPA}$ shown in Fig. [3b](#page-9-0) also increase with *T* except in the neighborhood of $x_W = 0.9$, where they decrease with *T*.

Table 2 Partial molar coefficients of thermal expansion of MIPA **Table 2** Partial molar coefficients of thermal expansion of MIPA

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Figure [3c](#page-9-0), d shows that the partial molar coefficient of the thermal expansion for water exhibits a different trend. For $0 \le x_W \le 0.6$ (approx.), the $\overline{\alpha}_W$ curves move toward higher and higher values as x_W is increased. Beyond $x_W = 0.6$, this increasing trend is reversed and the $\bar{\alpha}_{W}$ curve attains a minimum at $x_{W} \approx 0.9$. Finally, for $x_{\rm W}$ = 1.0, i.e., pure water, $\bar{\alpha}_{\rm W}$ moved above that for $x_{\rm W}$ = 0.9 indicating the re-emergence of the increasing trend. It is noticed that $\bar{\alpha}_{W}$ increases with *T* for all *x*W, but the rate of increase is significantly non-uniform.

To ensure that the behaviors exhibited by the computed $\overline{\alpha}_{\text{MIPA}}$ and $\overline{\alpha}_{\text{W}}$ are not numerical artifacts, a simple check has been carried out. By definition, when $x_W =$ $0, \overline{\alpha}_{MIPA} \equiv \alpha_{MIPA}$ and when $x_W = 1, \overline{\alpha}_W \equiv \alpha_W$, i.e., they become the normal coefficients of thermal expansion of pure MIPA and water, respectively. Mokraoui et al. [\[4](#page-15-5)] reported extensive density versus temperature data of pure MIPA. Based on these data, α_{MIPA} can be calculated very reliably. These are shown as discrete points in Fig. [4.](#page-13-0) For comparison, the $\overline{\alpha}_{MIPA}$ curve for $x_W = 0$ given by Tikhonov regularization in Fig. [3a](#page-9-0) is reproduced in Fig. [4.](#page-13-0) There is essentially no noticeable difference between the discrete points and the continuous curve. Kell [\[9](#page-15-6)] tabulated $\alpha_{\rm W}$ of pure water over a wide range of temperatures, and these are also plotted as discrete points in Fig. [4.](#page-13-0) These are compared against the $\bar{\alpha}_{W}$ curve for $x_{W} = 1$ taken from Fig. [3d](#page-9-0). Again there is no noticeable difference between the discrete points and the continuous curve. As the two discrete sets of normal coefficients of thermal expansion for the pure components were obtained in a completely independent manner of their counterparts obtained through the partial molar volume data, the comparisons in Fig. [4](#page-13-0) confirm not only the reliability of the $\overline{\alpha}_{MIPA}$ and $\overline{\alpha}_{W}$ of the pure components, but also that of all the other $\overline{\alpha}_{MIPA}$ and $\overline{\alpha}_{W}$ curves obtained by the same Tikhonov regularization computation.

3.3 Structure Enhancement/Destruction in Aqueous MIPA

Hepler [\[15\]](#page-15-13) examined the second derivative of specific volume $(\partial^2 v / \partial T^2)_P$ of solutions and deduced from it whether changing the composition of a binary solution is likely to be structure promoting or destroying. The basis for this is the standard thermodynamic identity [\[10\]](#page-15-7),

$$
\left(\frac{\partial C_P}{\partial P}\right)_T = -T \left(\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial T^2}\right)_P.
$$
\n(7)

The understanding here is that, for a solution with significant structure, such as water, *CP* is expected to be large compared to one with less structure. Increasing pressure *P* destroys the structure, i.e., $(\partial C_P/\partial P)_T$ is expected to be negative. If there is very little structure in a solution, $(\partial C_P/\partial P)_T$ is expected to be close to 0. If the structure in the solution is increased, $(\partial C_P/\partial P)_T$ is expected to become more negative. On the other hand, if the structure is reduced, $(\partial C_P/\partial P)_T$ is expected to become less negative.

In order to apply these observations to aqueous MIPA, the thermodynamic identity for $(\partial C_P/\partial P)_T$ is expressed in terms of the appropriate partial molar quantities,

Fig. 4 Comparison of partial molar coefficients of thermal expansion with normal coefficients of thermal expansion for pure components: \triangle : normal coefficient of pure MIPA [\[4](#page-15-5)] and \bullet : normal coefficient of pure water [\[9](#page-15-6)]. Curves are the partial molar coefficients from Fig. [3a](#page-9-0) for MIPA with $x_W = 0$ and from Fig. [3d](#page-9-0) for water with $x_{\rm W} = 1.0$

$$
\left(\frac{\partial C_P}{\partial P}\right)_T = -T \left(\frac{\partial^2 (x_W \overline{V}_W + x_{MIPA} \overline{V}_{MIPA})_{P,x_W}}{\partial T^2}\right) = -T \left[x_W \left(\frac{\partial^2 \overline{V}_W}{\partial T^2}\right)_{P,x_W} + x_{MIPA} \left(\frac{\partial^2 \overline{V}_{MIPA}}{\partial T^2}\right)_{P,x_{MIPA}}\right]
$$
(8)

According to Eq. [8,](#page-13-1) if x_{MIPA} is increased slightly, a positive $\left(\partial^2 \overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}/\partial T^2\right)_{P, x_{\text{MIPA}}}$ will make $(\partial C_P/\partial P)_T$ more negative suggesting that this is structure promoting. Conversely, a small increase in x_{MIPA} when $(\partial^2 \overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}/\partial T^2)_{P, x_{\text{MIPA}}}$ is negative will make $(\partial C_P/\partial P)_T$ less negative suggesting structure destruction. Similar deductions can be made with regarding to changing *x*_W and the sign of $\left(\frac{\partial^2 \overline{V}_W}{\partial T^2}\right)_{P, x_W}$.

The second derivatives $\left(\partial^2 \overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}/\partial T^2\right)_{P, x_{\text{MIPA}}}$ given by the Tikhonov regulariza-tion computation are shown in Fig. [5a](#page-14-0) and b, and the corresponding $\left(\partial^2 \overline{V}_W / \partial T^2\right)_{P, x_W}$ are shown in Fig. [5c](#page-14-0). The $\left(\partial^2 \overline{V}_W / \partial T^2\right)_{P, x_W}$ curves in Fig. 5c do not exhibit any clear pattern as *T* is increased. With the limited non-isothermal data available, it is doubtful that a detailed analysis of their trend can be justified. But it is also clear from Fig. [5c](#page-14-0) that all the $(\partial^2 \overline{V}_W / \partial T^2)_{P, x_W}$ are essentially positive. Hence, water can be regarded as structure promoting. Similarly, $\left(\partial^2 \overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}/\partial T^2\right)_{P,\text{x}_{\text{MIPA}}}$ for $0 \le x_{\text{W}} \le 0.5$ in Fig. [5a](#page-14-0) also shows no discernable trends, but they are all positive. The $\left(\frac{\partial^2 \overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}}{\partial T^2}\right)_{P,\text{x}_{\text{MIPA}}}$ for $0.6 \leq x_{\rm W} \leq 1.0$ in Fig. [5b](#page-14-0) are more regular, and they again remain positive except

Fig. 5 The second derivatives of partial molar volumes with respect to temperature: (**a**), (**b**) MIPA and (**c**) water. For curves that are spaced out, the value of x_W is shown beside each of the curves

in the neighborhood of $x_W = 0.9$. Thus, in general, MIPA also appears to be structure promoting. At $x_W = 0.9$, $\left(\frac{\partial^2 \overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}}{\partial T^2}\right)_{P, x_{\text{MIPA}}}$ is negative for $T < 335$ K (approx.) suggesting that the addition of MIPA to water under this condition is structure destroying. But this ceases to be so with further addition of MIPA. This changeover from structure destroying to structure promoting occurs between $x_W = 0.9$ and $x_W = 1$. However, without specific knowledge of the nature of the structure or structures in aqueous MIPA solutions under different temperatures and concentrations, this brief discussion of structure, promoting or destroying, should be treated as tentative or even speculative.

Figure [2](#page-8-0) shows that all the $\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}$ and \overline{V}_{W} , at constant composition, are relatively linear in *T*. Consequently, the second derivatives $\left(\partial^2 \overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}/\partial T^2\right)_{P,x_{\text{MIPA}}}$ and $\left(\partial^2 \overline{V}_{W}/\partial T^2\right)_{P, x_W}$ are expected to be close to 0. According to Tikhonov regularization, they are indeed very small, only of the order of 10^{-4} cm³ · mol⁻¹ · K⁻². As the computation of $\overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}$ and \overline{V}_{W} requires the first derivative of the experimentally

measured specific volume $v(x_{W})$, their second derivatives with respect to *T* are therefore effectively the third derivative of $v(x_W)$ —once with respect to x_W and twice with respect to *T*. Evaluation of the higher derivatives of experimental data poses considerable computational problems [\[7\]](#page-15-3). It is not surprising that Mokraoui et al. [\[4](#page-15-5)] reported difficulties in obtaining $\left(\frac{\partial^2 \overline{V}_{\text{MIPA}}}{\partial T^2}\right)_{P, x_{\text{MIPA}}}$ and $\left(\frac{\partial^2 \overline{V}_{\text{W}}}{\partial T^2}\right)_{P, x_{\text{W}}}$. The second derivatives in Fig. [5](#page-14-0) demonstrate the advantages of Tikhonov regularization over the conventional curve fitting technique. The reliability of these second derivatives can be further improved if the experimental $\rho(x_W)$ or $v(x_W)$ data are available over a wider temperature range and possibly at a smaller temperature interval. The former is physically attainable, but the latter may raise a number of practical issues.

4 Conclusion

Tikhonov regularization provides an efficient way of computing the various derivatives of the molar volume data of aqueous MIPA. These derivatives allow the partial molar volumes and the partial molar coefficients of thermal expansion to be evaluated reliably. The change in the sign of the second derivatives of the partial molar volumes with respect to temperature provides a means of investigating, albeit with some uncertainty, the structure forming and destroying role of MIPA and water at different temperatures and for different compositions.

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