

Vapor–Liquid Equilibria of the Difluoromethane + Dimethyl Ether and 1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroethane + Dimethyl Ether Systems

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Binary vapor–liquid equilibrium data were measured for the difluoromethane (HFC-32) + dimethyl ether (DME) and 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane (HFC-134a) + dimethyl ether (DME) systems at temperature from (313.15 to 343.15) K. These experiments were carried out with a circulating-type apparatus with on-line gas chromatography. The experimental data were correlated well by Peng–Robinson equation of state using the Wong–Sandler mixing rules.

Introduction

The production and use of refrigerants with high ozone-depletion potentials (ODPs) such as the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) have been regulated as a consequence of the Montreal Protocol in 1987. Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are proposed as promising alternative refrigerants to substitute for CFCs because of their zero ODPs and low global warming potentials (GWPs). With HFCs, dimethyl ether (DME) has been used as an alternative refrigerant of CFCs because of its environmentally friendly properties. DME has zero ODPs and is non-toxic.^{1–4}

Thermodynamic properties of the mixtures, such as vapor–liquid equilibria (VLE), are important to decide the optimal compositions of the mixtures and to evaluate the performance of the refrigeration cycles. In this work, we measured the isothermal VLE data for the two binary systems, difluoromethane (HFC-32) + DME and 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane (HFC-134a) + DME, at temperatures from (313.15 to 343.15) K at 10 K intervals. The experimental data were correlated by the Peng–Robinson equation⁶ of state with the Wong–Sandler mixing rules.⁷

Experimental Section

Chemicals. DME of 99.9 % purity was supplied by LG Chem. Ltd., and HFC-32 and HFC-134a with purity 99.8 mass % were obtained from Ulsan Chemical Co. All components were used without further purification in these experiments.

Apparatus. The measurement of the VLE data was conducted in a circulation-type apparatus. The details of this apparatus were given in our previous studies.⁵ The equilibrium cell was made of 316 stainless steel with an inner volume of about 320 mL. It was equipped with two windows and two magnetic pumps. Because two magnetic pumps were forced to circulate vapor and liquid phase separately, equilibrium was quickly reached. The temperature in the cell was measured with a 100 Ω platinum resistance thermometer (Hart Scientific Co., model 5627) and a digital indicator (Hart Scientific Co., model 1502A) with an accuracy of 0.05 K. The pressure of the cell was measured with pressure transducer (Sensotec Co., model Super TJE (0 to 1500) psia) connected to a digital indicator (Laurel, model

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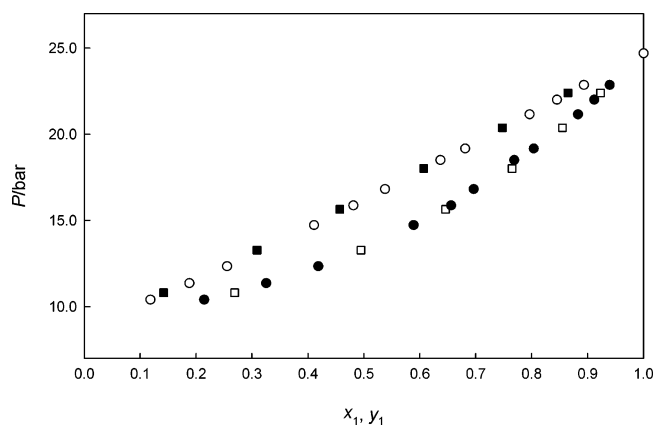


Figure 1. Comparative data of the HFC-32 (1) + DME (2) system at 313.15 K: ■ and □, experimental data of Richon and co-workers;^{3,4} ○ and ●, this study.

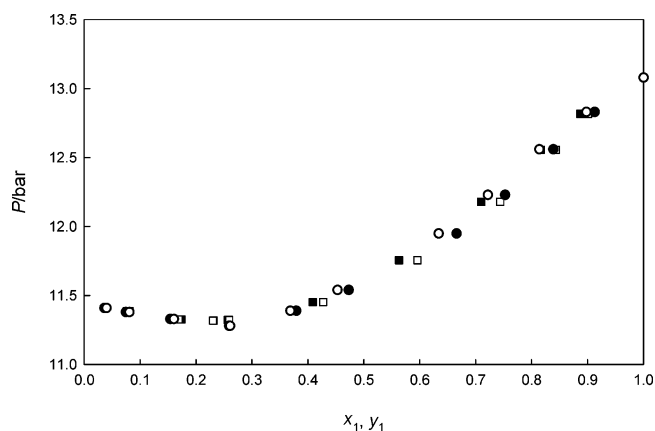


Figure 2. Comparative data of the HFC-134a (1) + DME (2) system at 313.15 K: ■ and □, experimental data of Richon and co-workers;^{3,4} ○ and ●, this study.

L20010WM1). An accuracy of the digital pressure gauge is 0.05 %. To trap the liquid and vapor sample, we used two sampling valves (Rheodyne Instruments, model 7413 with a 0.5 μ L sampling loop for liquid and model 7010 with a 10 μ L sampling loop for vapor). A gas chromatograph, which used helium gas as a carrier, was connected on-line to the equilibrium apparatus

Table 1. Critical Properties and Acentric Factors of Pure Components^a

	HFC-32	HFC-134a	dimethyl ether
T_c/K	351.26	374.18	401.10
P_c/bar	57.84	40.56	53.7
ω	0.2771	0.3268	0.2002

^a Aspen Property Databank.**Table 2. Vapor–Liquid Equilibrium Data for the HFC-32 (1) + DME (2) System**

$P_{\text{exptl}}/\text{bar}$	$y_{1,\text{exptl}}$	$x_{1,\text{exptl}}$	$P_{\text{calcd}}/\text{bar}$	$y_{1,\text{calcd}}$	$\Delta P/\text{bar}^a$	Δy_1^b
$T = 313.15 \text{ K}$						
10.40	0.2145	0.1186	10.40	0.2227	0.00	0.0082
11.36	0.3256	0.1881	11.36	0.3307	0.00	0.0051
12.34	0.4187	0.2555	12.35	0.4216	0.01	0.0029
14.73	0.5893	0.4108	14.74	0.5909	0.01	0.0017
15.87	0.6561	0.4815	15.87	0.6543	0.00	-0.0019
16.82	0.6966	0.5381	16.79	0.7005	-0.03	0.0039
18.50	0.7687	0.6370	18.43	0.7742	-0.07	0.0055
19.17	0.8036	0.6811	19.18	0.8048	0.01	0.0012
21.15	0.8828	0.7964	21.18	0.8801	0.03	-0.0027
22.00	0.9119	0.8454	22.04	0.9105	0.04	-0.0015
22.86	0.9395	0.8936	22.90	0.9394	0.04	-0.0001
24.69	1.0000	1.0000	24.77	1.0000	0.08	0.0000
$T = 323.15 \text{ K}$						
12.28	0.0849	0.0510	12.25	0.0992	-0.03	0.0144
13.23	0.1864	0.1106	13.22	0.2032	-0.01	0.0168
14.24	0.2850	0.1693	14.22	0.2941	-0.02	0.0091
15.26	0.3671	0.2265	15.24	0.3733	-0.02	0.0063
16.65	0.4624	0.3012	16.61	0.4647	-0.04	0.0022
17.83	0.5371	0.3662	17.84	0.5349	0.01	-0.0022
20.16	0.6476	0.4832	20.15	0.6444	-0.01	-0.0032
21.46	0.7017	0.5459	21.42	0.6962	-0.04	-0.0055
23.00	0.7569	0.6200	22.97	0.7528	-0.03	-0.0041
24.35	0.8018	0.6838	24.33	0.7984	-0.02	-0.0034
25.40	0.8367	0.7353	25.45	0.8337	0.05	-0.0030
27.32	0.8923	0.8239	27.43	0.8918	0.11	-0.0005
28.87	0.9326	0.8903	28.94	0.9336	0.07	0.0010
30.28	0.9701	0.9516	30.34	0.9711	0.06	0.0010
31.38	1.0000	1.0000	31.45	1.0000	0.07	0.0000
$T = 333.15 \text{ K}$						
15.41	0.0879	0.0475	15.44	0.0888	0.03	0.0009
16.75	0.1954	0.1139	16.75	0.2003	0.00	0.0050
18.57	0.3264	0.2013	18.58	0.3279	0.01	0.0015
20.85	0.4549	0.3037	20.85	0.4543	0.00	-0.0006
25.81	0.6559	0.5100	25.80	0.6547	-0.01	-0.0012
26.72	0.6851	0.5434	26.65	0.6822	-0.07	-0.0029
28.78	0.7480	0.6243	28.75	0.7450	-0.03	-0.0030
29.54	0.7703	0.6546	29.55	0.7673	0.01	-0.0030
30.88	0.8028	0.7018	30.83	0.8011	-0.05	-0.0017
33.41	0.8668	0.7984	33.52	0.8674	0.11	0.0006
35.63	0.9175	0.8767	35.78	0.9194	0.15	0.0019
37.74	0.9659	0.9501	37.95	0.9675	0.21	0.0016
39.34	1.0000	1.0000	39.44	1.0000	0.10	0.0000
$T = 343.15 \text{ K}$						
20.78	0.1930	0.1120	20.83	0.1891	0.05	-0.0039
22.39	0.2877	0.1765	22.43	0.2820	0.04	-0.0057
23.97	0.3654	0.2362	23.98	0.3594	0.01	-0.0060
26.65	0.4774	0.3339	26.63	0.4711	-0.02	-0.0063
29.38	0.5686	0.4281	29.32	0.5645	-0.06	-0.0041
31.24	0.6251	0.4919	31.22	0.6215	-0.02	-0.0036
32.19	0.6519	0.5230	32.16	0.6478	-0.03	-0.0041
34.23	0.7028	0.5870	34.16	0.6994	-0.07	-0.0034
35.29	0.7310	0.6235	35.32	0.7275	0.03	-0.0035
39.36	0.8193	0.7470	39.45	0.8181	0.09	-0.0011
42.11	0.8738	0.8250	42.22	0.8736	0.11	-0.0003
44.12	0.9096	0.8777	44.16	0.9110	0.04	0.0014
45.60	0.9377	0.9175	45.68	0.9396	0.08	0.0019
46.86	0.9641	0.9548	47.13	0.9667	0.27	0.0025
48.84	1.0000	1.0000	48.92	1.0000	0.08	0.0000

$$^a \Delta P = P_{\text{cal}} - P_{\text{exp}}. \quad ^b \Delta y_1 = y_{\text{cal}} - y_{\text{exp}}.$$

with a thermal conductivity detector (TCD) and equipped Porapak-Q column (1.83 m long; 3.18 mm diameter; mesh range, 80/100).

Table 3. Vapor–Liquid Equilibrium Data for the HFC-134a (1) + DME (2) System

$P_{\text{exptl}}/\text{bar}$	$y_{1,\text{exptl}}$	$x_{1,\text{exptl}}$	$P_{\text{calcd}}/\text{bar}$	$y_{1,\text{calcd}}$	$\Delta P/\text{bar}^a$	Δy_1^b
$T = 313.15 \text{ K}$						
8.84	0.0245	0.0309	8.84	0.0264	0.00	-0.0045
8.80	0.0682	0.0806	8.77	0.0727	-0.03	-0.0078
8.78	0.0835	0.0980	8.75	0.0899	-0.03	-0.0082
8.76	0.1115	0.1282	8.72	0.1206	-0.04	-0.0076
8.69	0.2210	0.2368	8.69	0.2377	0.00	0.0008
8.72	0.3072	0.3154	8.71	0.3255	-0.01	0.0101
8.78	0.4300	0.4258	8.81	0.4488	0.03	0.0229
8.97	0.5511	0.5344	8.97	0.5668	0.00	0.0324
9.20	0.6746	0.6492	9.19	0.6861	-0.01	0.0369
9.53	0.8026	0.7779	9.49	0.8115	-0.04	0.0335
9.85	0.9101	0.8952	9.82	0.9163	-0.03	0.0211
10.08	1.0000	1.0000	10.15	1.0000	0.07	0.0000
$T = 323.15 \text{ K}$						
11.41	0.0361	0.0400	11.41	0.0364	0.00	-0.0036
11.38	0.0744	0.0808	11.36	0.0756	-0.02	-0.0051
11.33	0.1539	0.1605	11.30	0.1571	-0.03	-0.0034
11.28	0.2592	0.2609	11.30	0.2662	0.02	0.0053
11.39	0.3792	0.3685	11.40	0.3866	0.01	0.0181
11.54	0.4730	0.4530	11.53	0.4808	-0.01	0.0278
11.95	0.6658	0.6338	11.97	0.6726	0.02	0.0387
12.23	0.7524	0.7217	12.24	0.7585	0.01	0.0369
12.56	0.8389	0.8139	12.54	0.8431	-0.02	0.0292
12.83	0.9129	0.8979	12.83	0.9157	0.00	0.0177
13.08	1.0000	1.0000	13.18	1.0000	0.10	0.0000
$T = 333.15 \text{ K}$						
14.48	0.0453	0.0489	14.48	0.0461	0.00	-0.0028
14.46	0.0870	0.0919	14.44	0.0889	-0.02	-0.0031
14.45	0.1420	0.1473	14.41	0.1463	-0.04	-0.0010
14.47	0.2774	0.2760	14.47	0.2857	0.00	0.0097
14.66	0.4063	0.3934	14.66	0.4147	0.00	0.0213
15.06	0.5788	0.5547	15.07	0.5868	0.01	0.0321
15.55	0.7251	0.6971	15.57	0.7296	0.01	0.0325
15.95	0.8194	0.7964	15.96	0.8231	0.01	0.0268
16.27	0.8853	0.8689	16.26	0.8883	-0.01	0.0194
16.46	0.9217	0.9101	16.44	0.9242	-0.02	0.0141
16.73	1.0000	1.0000	16.84	1.0000	0.11	0.0000
$T = 343.15 \text{ K}$						
18.16	0.0101	0.0102	18.20	0.0097	0.04	-0.0006
18.15	0.0841	0.0858	18.14	0.0848	-0.01	-0.0010
18.16	0.1662	0.1667	18.15	0.1696	-0.01	0.0029
18.30	0.2970	0.2903	18.30	0.3028	0.00	0.0126
18.54	0.4228	0.4054	18.57	0.4266	0.03	0.0212
18.98	0.5639	0.5386	19.01	0.5661	0.03	0.0275
19.57	0.7023	0.6770	19.57	0.7048	0.00	0.0278
20.15	0.8125	0.7892	20.10	0.8122	-0.05	0.0230
20.50	0.8769	0.8588	20.45	0.8763	-0.05	0.0175
21.06	1.0000	1.0000	21.23	1.0000	0.17	0.0000

$$^a \Delta P = P_{\text{cal}} - P_{\text{exp}}. \quad ^b \Delta y_1 = y_{\text{cal}} - y_{\text{exp}}.$$

Experimental Procedure. The whole system was evacuated with a vacuum pump to remove all the impurities. Next, a certain amount of DME was injected into the cell. Then, a proper amount of HFCs was charged. After the target temperature was reached, two magnetic pumps were started to circulate vapor and liquid phases. When the equilibrium was reached, the vapor and liquid samples were taken into the gas chromatograph, and the compositions were measured. The equilibrium compositions of each phase were measured at least five times in a row to obtain reliable average values. Deviations of the equilibrium composition were less than 0.0005 in the mole fraction.

Results and Discussion

VLE data for the binary systems, HFC-32 (1) + DME (2) and HFC-134a (1) + DME (2), were measured in a temperature range from (313.15 to 343.15) K. We found that Richon and co-workers reported the data for the same system at different temperature ranges.^{3,4} Thus, we compared our data to those in

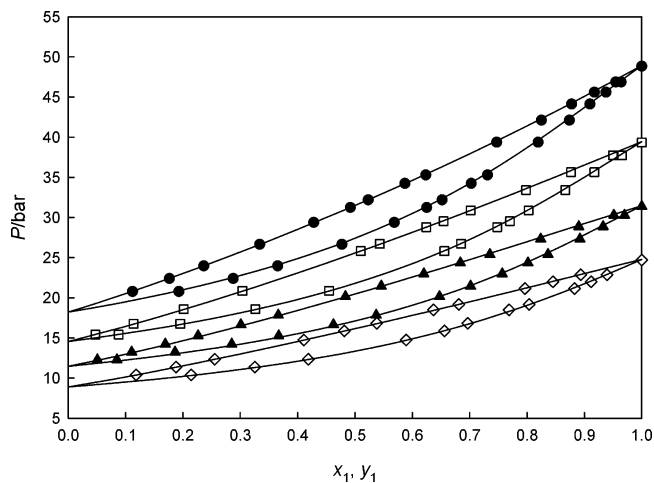


Figure 3. Vapor-liquid equilibria of the HFC-32 (1) + DME (2) system: —, PR EOS using Wong-Sandler mixing rules. ●, experimental data at 343 K; □, 333.15 K; ▲, 323.15 K; ◇, 313.15 K.

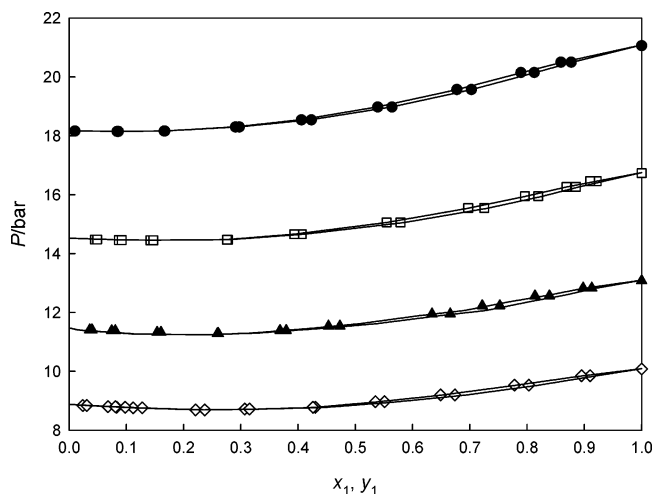


Figure 4. Vapor-liquid equilibria of the HFC-134a (1) + DME (2) system: —, PR EOS using Wong-Sandler mixing rules. ●, experimental data at 343 K; □, 333.15 K; ▲, 323.15 K; ◇, 313.15 K.

the literature. Figures 1 and 2 show the comparison at 313.15 K; good results were obtained. Experimental data for each system are given in Tables 2 and 3. Experimental data were correlated with the Peng-Robinson⁶ equation of state (PR EOS) using the Wong-Sandler⁷ equation of state (PR EOS) using the Wong-Sandler mixing rules.⁷ The PR EOS and the Wong-Sandler mixing rules are expressed as follows:

$$P = \frac{RT}{V-b} - \frac{a(T)}{V(V+b) + b(V-b)} \quad (1)$$

$$a(T) = 0.45724 \frac{R^2 T_c^2}{P_c} \alpha(T) \quad (2)$$

$$b(T_c) = 0.07780 \frac{RT_c}{P_c} \quad (3)$$

$$\alpha(T) = [1 + \kappa(1 - T_r^{0.5})]^2 \quad (4)$$

$$\kappa = 0.37464 + 1.54226\omega - 0.26992\omega^2 \quad (5)$$

where T_c is the critical temperature, P_c is the critical pressure, T_r is the reduced temperature, and ω is the acentric factor. The critical properties and acentric factors are listed in Table 1.

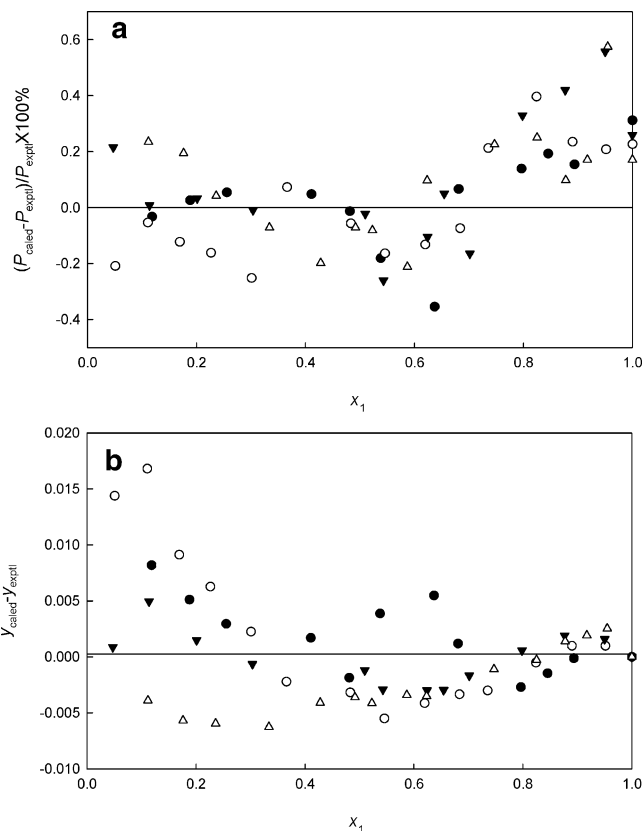


Figure 5. Deviation of the HFC-32 (1) + DME (2) system: (a) deviation of pressure and (b) deviation of vapor mole fraction. ●, experimental data at 313.15 K; ○, 323.15 K; ▼, 333.15 K; △, 343.15 K.

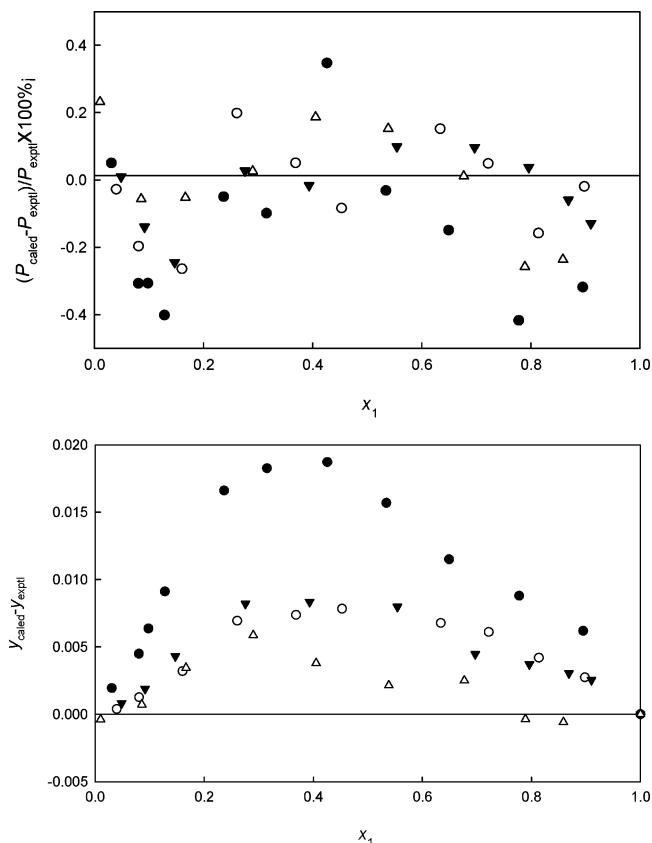


Figure 6. Deviation of the HFC-134a (1) + DME (2) system: (a) deviation of pressure and (b) deviation of vapor mole fraction. ●, experimental data at 313.15 K; ○, 323.15 K; ▼, 333.15 K; △, 343.15 K.

Table 4. Binary Parameters and AAD (%)

T/K	binary parameters ^a	AADP ^b /%	AADy ^c
HFC-32 + DME			
313.15	k_{ij}	-0.31848	0.130
	A_{ij}	-475.36	
	A_{ji}	187.2982	
323.15	k_{ij}	-0.20037	0.172
	A_{ij}	-558.458	
	A_{ji}	128.0031	
333.15	k_{ij}	-0.12306	0.187
	A_{ij}	-596.239	
	A_{ji}	73.82621	
343.15	k_{ij}	-0.08792	0.179
	A_{ij}	-642.458	
	A_{ji}	57.95562	
overall	k_{ij}	-0.15107	0.188
	A_{ij}	-581.08	
	A_{ji}	93.63736	
HFC-134a + DME			
313.15	k_{ij}	-0.30141	0.266
	A_{ij}	165.4623	
	A_{ji}	-5.17205	
323.15	k_{ij}	-0.11128	0.176
	A_{ij}	510.1168	
	A_{ji}	-343.899	
333.15	k_{ij}	-0.1585	0.137
	A_{ij}	343.9054	
	A_{ji}	-214.227	
343.15	k_{ij}	-0.18558	0.199
	A_{ij}	228.3719	
	A_{ji}	-98.3347	
overall	k_{ij}	-0.01507	0.178
	A_{ij}	724.7465	
	A_{ji}	-487.877	

^a The unit of A_{ij} and A_{ji} is K. ^b AADP = $(100/N)\sum_i^N(|P_{i,cal} - P_{i,exp}|/P_{i,exp})$. ^c AADy = $(1/N)\sum_i^N|y_{i,cal} - y_{i,exp}|$.

Table 5. Calculated Azeotropic Compositions and Pressures for the HFC-134a + DME System

T/K	x_1	P/bar	T/K	x_1	P/bar
313.15	0.2277	8.69	333.15	0.1645	14.41
323.15	0.2022	11.29	343.15	0.1139	18.13

The Wong–Sandler mixing rule is represented as follows:

$$b_m = \frac{\sum_i \sum_j x_i x_j \left(b - \frac{a}{RT} \right)_{ij}}{1 - \sum_i x_i \frac{a_i}{b_i RT} - \frac{A_\infty^E}{CRT}} \quad (6)$$

$$a_m = b_m \left(\sum_i x_i \frac{a_i}{b_i} + \frac{A_\infty^E}{C} \right) \quad (7)$$

$$\left(b - \frac{a}{RT} \right)_{ij} = \frac{\left(b_i - \frac{a_i}{RT} \right) + \left(b_j - \frac{a_j}{RT} \right)}{2} (1 - k_{ij}) \quad (8)$$

where $C = \ln(\sqrt{2} - 1)/\sqrt{2}$ for the PR EOS. Because the excess Helmholtz free energy of mixing at infinite pressure is assumed equal to the excess Gibbs free energy (G^E) at low pressure, the G^E model is used in place of A_∞^E . We used the NRTL model⁸ as a G^E model in this study:

$$\frac{G^E}{RT} = \frac{\sum_i x_i \tau_{ij} G_{ji}}{\sum_k x_k G_{ki}} \quad (9)$$

$$G_{ij} = \exp(-\alpha_{ij} \tau_{ij}) \alpha_{ij} = \alpha_{ji} \quad (10)$$

$$\tau_{ij} = A_{ij}/T \quad (11)$$

where τ_{ij} and τ_{ji} are the interaction parameters and α_{ij} is the non-randomness parameter. We fixed the non-randomness parameter α_{ij} to 0.3 in this study. The Marquardt algorithm was used to minimize the following objective function:

$$OF = \sum_i^N \left| \frac{P_{exp} - P_{cal}}{P_{exp}} \right| \quad (12)$$

where N is the number of experimental data points and P_{exp} and P_{cal} are the experimental and the calculated pressures, respectively.

As shown in Figures 3 and 4, the calculated results give a good agreement with the experimental data at each temperature. The overall deviation values of pressure and vapor composition were 0.188 % and 0.0033 for the HFC-32 + DME system and 0.178 % and 0.0052 for the HFC-134a + DME system, respectively. Figures 5 and 6 show the deviations of P and y of each system between the measured data and the calculated values. Binary parameters and the average absolute deviations of P and y are given in Table 4. In the HFC-134a + DME system, azeotropic behaviors were found, and the calculated azeotropic compositions and pressures are listed in Table 5.

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