

Liquid-Phase Thermodynamic Properties for the Binary and Ternary Systems of Propane (1), *n*-Butane (2), and Isobutane (3)

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Experimental thermodynamic property data for hydrocarbon refrigerant mixtures are more important now in order to improve the performance of existing equations of state. In the present paper, liquid-phase *PVTx* data including bubble points for the binary and ternary systems composed of propane (1), *n*-butane (2), and isobutane (3) are reported. More than 1000 measurements were made by employing a newly developed vibrating-tube densimeter system with an uncertainty of $0.1 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3} + 0.024\%$ for density, $(3 \text{ to } 7) \text{ mK}$ for temperature, $0.26 \text{ kPa} + 0.022\%$ for pressure, and 0.1 mol \% for composition. The present data contain the first set of experimental *PVTx* data for the ternary system. The measured data are compared with two available thermodynamic mixture models developed by Lemmon and Jacobsen and Miyamoto and Watanabe. A mixture model applied for a modified Tait equation of state is also presented in this paper.

Introduction

The production of refrigeration systems, especially household refrigerators, with hydrocarbon refrigerants is rapidly increasing with nonhalogenated refrigerants. Mathematical models that represent the thermodynamic properties of refrigerants are called equations of state (EoS), and their role as a cycle-performance estimation tool, or standard values of thermodynamic properties, is significant in the R&D activities of HVAC & R engineering. The latest EoS for propane (1), *n*-butane (2), and isobutane (3) formulated by Miyamoto and Watanabe^{1–3} are now included in the thermodynamic-property calculation software REFPROP (version 7.0)⁴ released by NIST (the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Boulder, Colorado).

To improve the cycle efficiency of refrigeration systems, the use of refrigerant mixtures to realize the Lorentz cycle is of concern. Equations of state for mixtures are now more important to match the increasing demand for accurate thermodynamic-property values of refrigerant mixtures. Such a function is available with REFPROP. It employs the generalized mixing rule for the Helmholtz free energy proposed by Lemmon and Jacobsen⁵ and was developed on the basis of experimental data for selected mixtures. However, the reproducibility of the model may sometimes be unknown for unstudied mixture systems, such as hydrocarbon mixtures. Miyamoto and Watanabe⁶ have also developed a mixture thermodynamic model for hydrocarbon mixtures composed of propane (1), *n*-butane (2), and isobutane (3). They developed their model on the basis of the available experimental data for the mixtures. We intend to evaluate these two available mixture models by comparing them with new data for hydrocarbon mixtures.

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In the present study, approximately 300 *PVTx* properties including those at the bubble points of the three binary systems propane (1) + *n*-butane (2), propane (1) + isobutane (3), and *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3) were measured by using a vibrating-tube densimeter apparatus. Nearly the same number of data were also obtained for the ternary system propane (1) + *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3). The measurement system has been reported by the present authors⁷ and has been used for pure refrigerant measurements, including those for hydrofluoroethers⁸ and hydrocarbons.⁹ The *PVTx* data were compared with the available mixture models. The representation of the saturated-liquid densities is also discussed in this paper.

On the basis of the present measurements, we have proposed a new mixing rule for a liquid-phase thermodynamic model that was originally developed by us.⁹ In addition to the comparison with the available *PVTx* data, the thermodynamic consistency of the model is also discussed by presenting some derived properties including the compressibility, specific heat capacity, and speed of sound.

Setup. A *PVT* property measurement system with a vibrating-tube densimeter was used in the present study. The apparatus is described in the literature^{7,10} in detail.

The system configuration of the present apparatus is illustrated in Figure 1. The system has a pressure–density measurement unit shown in Figure 2 as a main part. A commercially available densimeter (DMA512, Anton Paar, K. G.) was attached to a stainless steel block being applied as a balance weight (5.5 kg). It was suspended from the mounting frame of the apparatus. There were also a digital pressure gauge (PT) and a variable-volume vessel (VB) installed between some of the valves.

The sample pressure and density can be controlled through the metallic bellows of the variable-volume vessel by injecting or releasing nitrogen gas into and from the outer space of the bellows.

A standard platinum resistance thermometer (PRT) was installed very close to the densimeter. The temperature was regarded as being uniform by circulating the bath fluid (silicone oil), and it was feedback controlled by tempera-

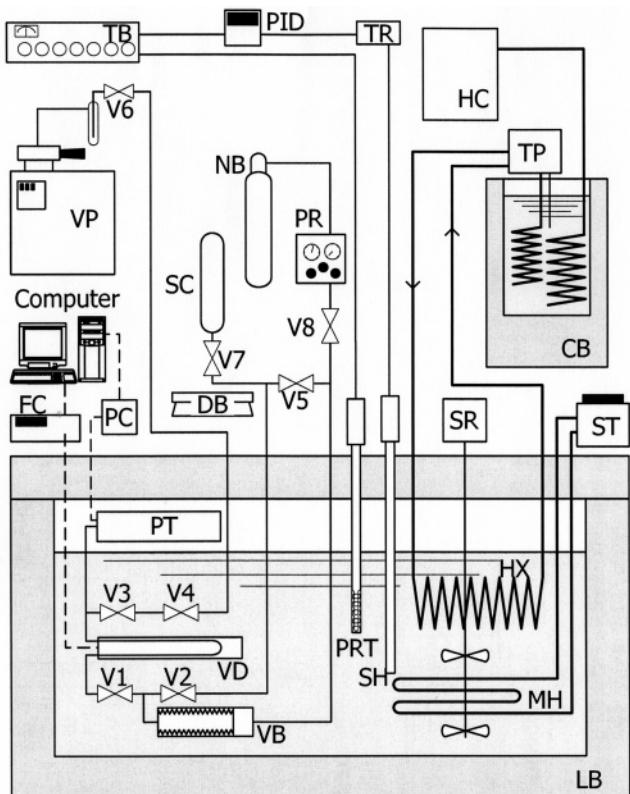


Figure 1. Schematic diagram of the experimental apparatus: VD, vibrating-tube densimeter cell; FC, frequency counter; PT, digital pressure gauge; PC, pressure computer; VB, variable-volume vessel with metallic bellows; PR, pressure regulator; NB, nitrogen gas bomb; SC, sample-supplying cylinder; DB, digital balance; VP, vacuum pump; PRT, standard platinum resistance thermometer; TB, thermometer bridge; LB, liquid bath; PID, PID controller; TR, thyristor regulator; SH, subheater; MH, main heater; ST, slide transformer; SR, stirrer; HX, heat exchanger; TP, temperature regulator pump; CB, cooling bath; HC, handy cooler; V1–7, valves.

ture-controlling devices such as a PID controller (PID), a thermometer bridge (TB), and a subheater (SH).

Materials and Mixture Sample Charging. In the present study, the mixture sample was prepared from each pure component sample as follows. Research-grade-purity samples of propane, *n*-butane, and isobutane were supplied by Nippon Sanso Co., who had reported their purity to be 99.99 mol % or higher from their gas-chromatograph analysis.

Each pure sample of previously planned mass (3 to 15 g) was prepared in a sample-supplying cylinder. The evacuated cylinder was charged with each pure sample, and then the mass of the cylinder was measured and regulated with an electronic balance with 1 mg resolution. Then, two or three sample cylinders prepared as described above were connected to the density measurement system as shown in Figure 3. For mixture sample charging, it is essential to let all of the prepared sample transfer into the measurement system in order to conduct density measurements with the same composition sample as prepared. Because a flushing procedure was not available, it was necessary to evacuate the system and sample feeding line under extreme vacuum for several hours. It was possible to conduct a flushing procedure with a sample of one of the mixture components and it was separately prepared from those used for the measurement.

After a considerable period of evacuation, valve V3 was closed, and then the sample-supplying cylinder valves were

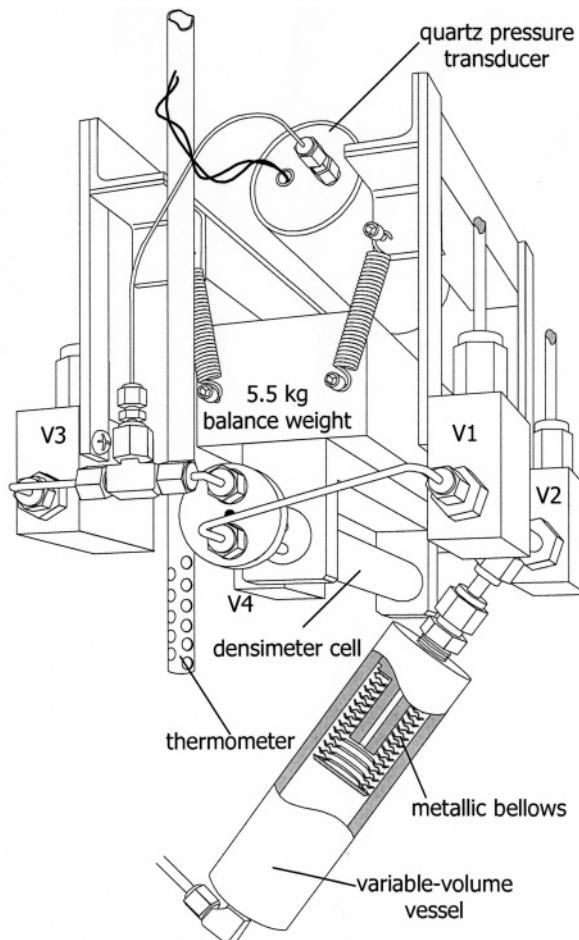


Figure 2. Drawing of the pressure–density measurement unit.

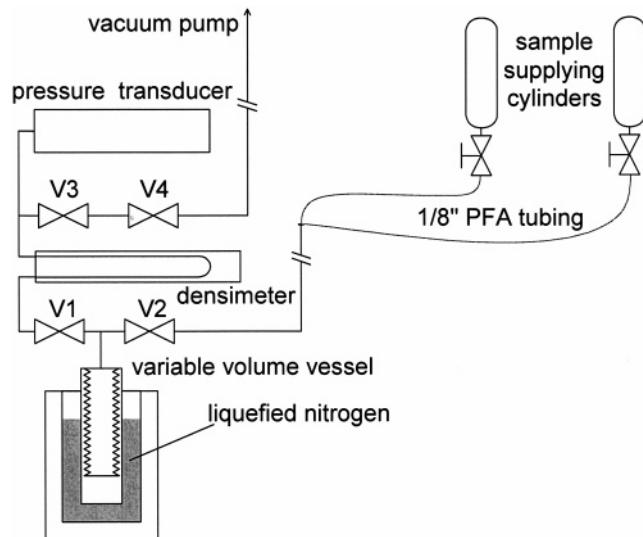


Figure 3. Connection diagram of the mixture sample transmission procedure.

opened to let the sample transfer into the system. To charge the measurement system with the entire sample, the variable-volume vessel was cooled by immersing it into liquefied nitrogen while the liquid bath was lowered. In this manner, the whole sample was condensed or solidified inside the bellows. In addition, to make the remaining sample evaporate and be extracted from the sample-supplying cylinder, it was heated with a heating bulb.

Bubble-Point Measurement. By employing the new procedure proposed, we determined the bubble point as

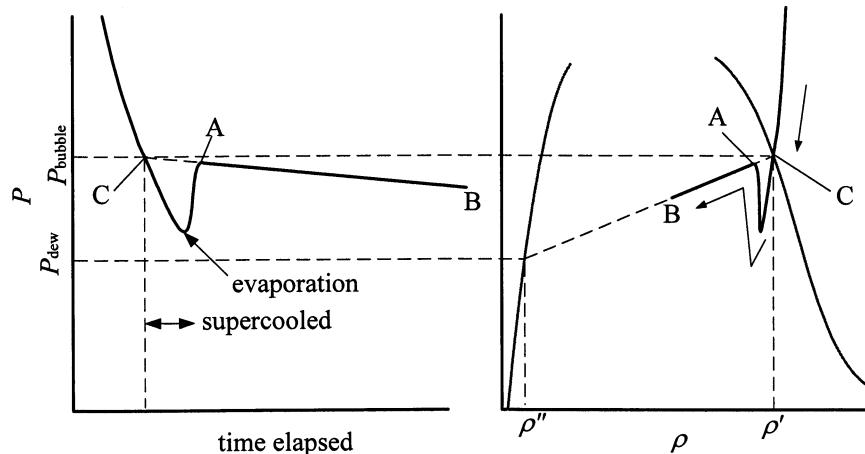


Figure 4. Pressure behavior in the vicinity of the bubble point during gradual expansion.

follows. Namely, in the liquid phase in the vicinity of the bubble point, the sample pressure was slowly lowered by slightly opening valve V8 in Figure 1 and extracting the nitrogen gas. A suitable pressure-dropping rate is about -1 to $-10 \text{ kPa} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$. When the pressure went down below the bubble-point pressure, the mixture sample became supercooled until sudden evaporation occurs by a certain reason. Once the evaporation happened, it continued until the pressure recovered to a normal level, and then it gradually descended along the isotherm under the two-phase condition.

This behavior is illustrated in Figure 4. Ideally, the isothermal pressure line kinks at bubble point C in Figure 4 and then goes straight along the two-phase isothermal pressure line C-A-B to point B. In reality, however, bubble point C is located at the intersection point with the extension of straight line A-B. However, the sample temperature is lower because the pressure is decreasing. Therefore, in the present study, two or three apparent intersection points were observed with a different pressure-dropping rate, and thus the bubble point was determined precisely by extrapolating to the state point where $dP/dt = 0$ (t : time elapsed).

Calibration and Uncertainty. The temperature measurement uncertainty was 3 mK, with a coverage factor of $k = 2$. The value is a sum of the measurement uncertainty of the thermometer (PRT), the thermometer bridge (TB) and of the temperature fluctuation of the PID control (± 1 mK). At 360 K or higher, it became 7 mK because of an increase in temperature fluctuations.

We have estimated the pressure measurement uncertainty to be $U = 0.26 \text{ kPa} + 0.00022P$. Because the digital pressure gauge is placed inside the liquid bath, it was calibrated over the full range of temperature (240 to 380) K. The nonlinearity of the pressure gauge was also calibrated.

When calibrating a vibrating-tube densimeter, one must be careful because the density measurement uncertainty may increase at a certain difference in density from the calibration point because the relation between the vibration period and the density is not perfectly linear. This is particularly a problem when measuring the density of hydrocarbons whose density is about (400 to 600) $\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$ in the liquid phase. In the present study, we have corrected the nonlinearity of the densimeter by employing the following calibration function (eq 1).

This function was determined by measuring the vibration period of water. The nonlinearity of the relation

between τ^2 and ρ is corrected by introducing a device-dependent constant, μ ,

$$\rho = A \frac{(1 + \mu)x}{1 - \mu x} \quad (1)$$

$$A = (a_1 + a_2 T^{0.75} + a_3 T^3)(1 - a_4 P^*) \quad (2)$$

$$P^* = \frac{P/\text{kPa}}{7000} \quad (3)$$

$$T^* = \frac{T/\text{K}}{400} \quad (4)$$

where x is a periodical parameter defined by $x = (\tau^2/\tau_0^2) - 1$, τ denotes a vibration period, and τ_0 is that under vacuum. The parameter τ_0 was measured under vacuum condition between each isothermal experiment for the sample. A proportional parameter, A , was determined by calibration with water, where μ was determined to be $\mu = 0.0030 \pm 0.0005$ by comparing the density of water and isoctane, whose density is precisely calibrated to 40 ppm on the same (P , T) grid. The density measurement uncertainty was evaluated to be $0.1 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3} + 0.00024\rho$, where the coverage factor is $k = 2$.

The uncertainty in mole fraction was estimated from the mass measurement uncertainty (1 mg) in the mixture sample preparation procedure to be less than 0.1 mol %.

Results and Discussion

Introductory Remarks. A total of 288, 271, and 313 liquid-phase $PVTx$ properties for binary systems propane (1) + *n*-butane (2), propane (1) + isobutane (3), and *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3) were obtained for mole fractions of 0.25, 0.50, and 0.75. We have also measured 295 $PVTx$ values of the ternary system propane (1) + *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3) in the liquid phase at mole fractions (x_1, x_2) = (0.2, 0.6), (0.33, 0.34), and (0.6, 0.2). These data are tabulated in Tables 1 through 4. Bubble-point pressures and saturated-liquid densities were also obtained, and these data are summarized in Table 5. The composition distribution of the measured data are illustrated in a trilinear diagram (Figure 5) together with other reported $PVTx$ data. It should be noted that a couple of data points reported by Luo and Miller¹¹ are gas-phase $PVTx$ data. It is emphasized, therefore, that the present data contain the first set of liquid-phase $PVTx$ data for the ternary mixture of present interest.

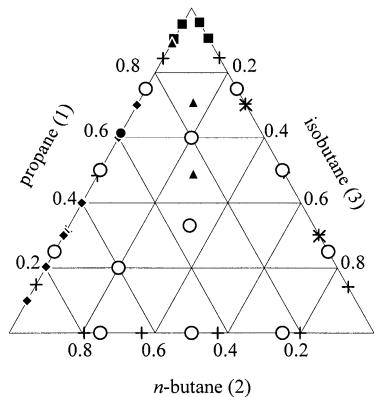


Figure 5. Composition distribution of available PVTx data (with numbers of measurements) for the binary and ternary systems of propane (1), *n*-butane (2), and isobutane (3): ○, this work (1167); ×, Duarte-Garza and Magee¹⁶ (341); ●, Holcomb et al.¹² (129); +, Kahre¹⁴ (55); ▲, Luo and Miller¹¹ (3); ♦, Parrish¹³ (513); ■, Thompson and Miller¹⁵ (8).

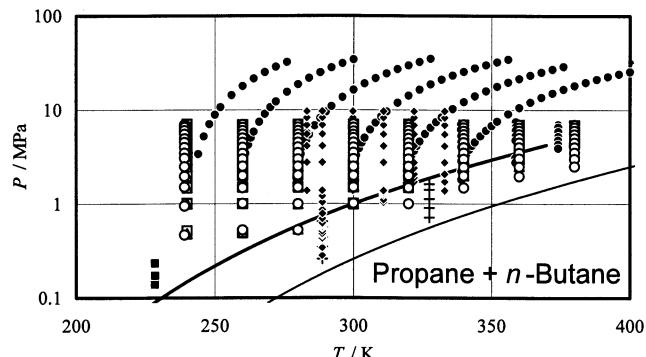


Figure 6. PVTx data distribution for the binary system propane (1) + *n*-butane (2), this work: ○, $x_1 = 0.250$; Δ, $x_1 = 0.500$; □, $x_1 = 0.750$; ●, Holcomb et al.;¹² +, Kahre;¹⁴ ♦, Parrish;¹³ ■, Thompson and Miller;¹⁵ calculated vapor-pressure curves, —, propane (1)¹ and —, *n*-butane (2).²

Note that when the parameter has a negative value, say, $a_{ii,k}, a_{jj,k} < 0$, the parameter for the mixture also becomes negative. Namely,

$$a_{ij,k} = -(1 - k_{ij})\sqrt{a_{ii,k}a_{jj,k}} \quad (a_{ii,k}, a_{jj,k} < 0) \quad (20)$$

$$c_{ij,k} = -(1 - k_{ij})\sqrt{c_{ii,k}c_{jj,k}} \quad (c_{ii,k}, c_{jj,k} < 0) \quad (21)$$

$$d_{ij,k} = -(1 - k_{ij})\sqrt{d_{ii,k}d_{jj,k}} \quad (d_{ii,k}, d_{jj,k} < 0) \quad (22)$$

Binary interaction parameters k_{ij} were determined by fitting the EoS (eq 5) to the liquid-density data for the three binary systems. The parameters thus optimized are given as

$$k_{12} = 0.015150 \quad (23)$$

$$k_{13} = 0.013764 \quad (24)$$

$$k_{23} = -0.00100 \quad (25)$$

No temperature dependence of the interaction parameters was considered.

Comparison with Experimental Data. Relative density deviations of available experimental liquid density data from those calculated by eq 5 are illustrated in Figures 18 to 21.

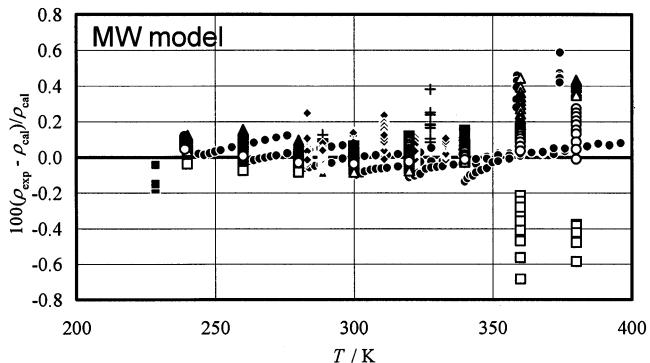
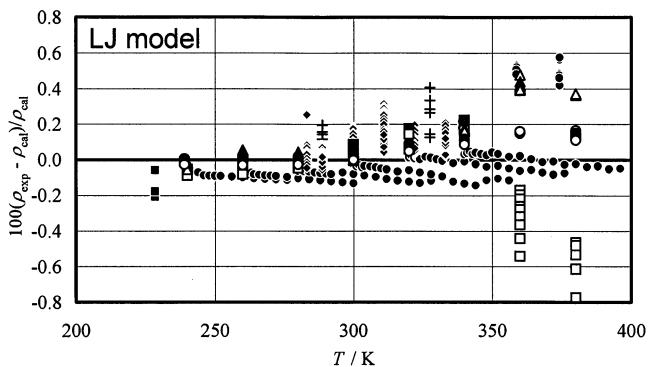


Figure 7. Relative density deviation of the liquid-phase PVTx data for the binary system propane (1) + *n*-butane (2) from the Lemmon and Jacobsen model⁵ (top) and the Miyamoto and Watanabe model⁶ (bottom), this work: ○, $x_1 = 0.250$; Δ, $x_1 = 0.500$; □, $x_1 = 0.750$; ●, Holcomb et al.;¹² +, Kahre;¹⁴ ♦, Parrish;¹³ ■, Thompson and Miller.¹⁵

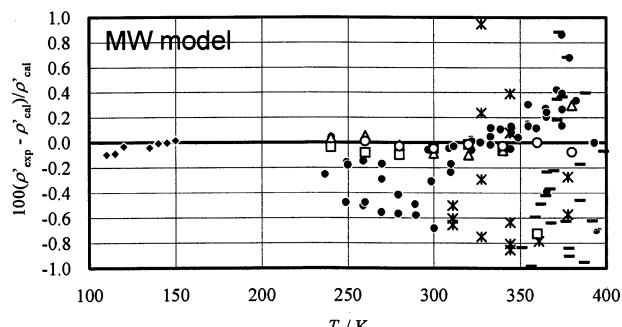
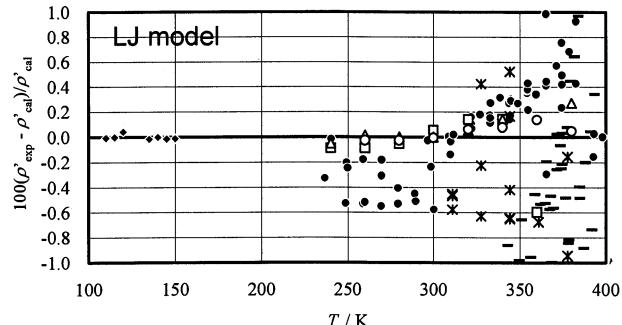


Figure 8. Relative deviation of the saturated-liquid density of the binary system propane (1) + *n*-butane (2) from the Lemmon and Jacobsen model⁵ (top) and the Miyamoto and Watanabe model⁶ (bottom), this work: ○, $x_1 = 0.250$; Δ, $x_1 = 0.500$; □, $x_1 = 0.750$; ♦, Hiza et al.;²⁰ ●, Holcomb et al.;¹² *, Nysewander et al.;²¹ -, Kay.²²

As is seen in Figure 18, the present data for the binary system propane (1) + *n*-butane (2) were excellently represented within ±0.1% at temperatures lower than 340 K.

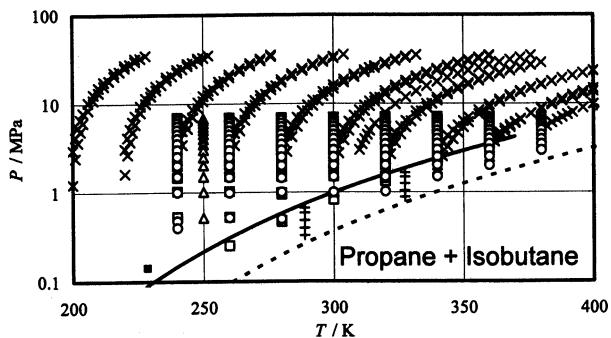


Figure 9. PVT_x data distribution for the binary system propane (1) + isobutane (3), this work: ○, $x_1 = 0.250$; △, $x_1 = 0.499$; □, $x_1 = 0.750$; ×, Duarte-Garza and Magee;¹⁶ +, Kahre;¹⁴ ■, Thompson et al.,¹⁵ calculated vapor-pressure curves, - -, propane (1)¹ and - - -, isobutane (3).³

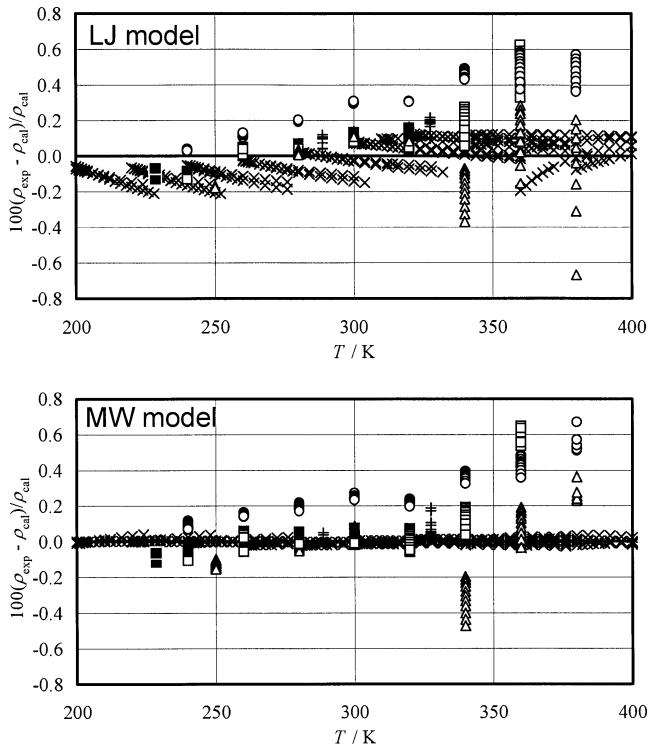


Figure 10. Relative density deviation of the liquid-phase PVT_x data for the binary system propane (1) + isobutane (3) from the Lemmon and Jacobson model⁵ (top) and the Miyamoto and Watanabe model⁶ (bottom), this work: ○, $x_1 = 0.250$; △, $x_1 = 0.499$; □, $x_1 = 0.750$; ×, Duarte-Garza and Magee;¹⁶ +, Kahre;¹⁴ ■, Thompson et al.¹⁵

In that temperature range, those by Holcomb et al.¹² and Parrish¹³ were also reproduced within $\pm 0.2\%$, whereas those by Kahre¹⁴ deviate by 0.45% at the maximum. Although the pressure range of the data by Holcomb et al. exceeds that of the present work, up to 7 MPa, their data are well represented. However, deviations of the data spread at higher temperatures. They become $\pm 0.5\%$ at 360 K and $\pm 1.0\%$ at 380 K, but these temperatures are higher than the expected temperature limit of the present EoS, being $0.9T_C$.

Similar results were observed in the comparison of the present EoS with the data for the binary system propane (1) + isobutane (3). The scatter of the present data is within $\pm 0.2\%$ where $T \leq 320$ K. It increases to $\pm 0.4\%$ at 340 K and exceeds 1.5% at 380 K. The higher deviations are due to the lower critical temperature of isobutane (3). However, the data by Duarte-Garza and Magee¹⁶ are well repre-

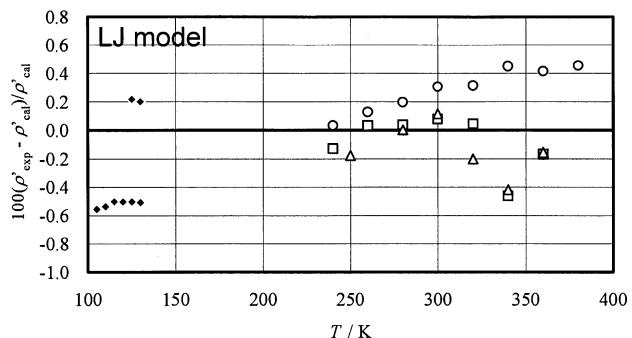


Figure 11. Relative deviation of the saturated-liquid density of the binary system propane (1) + isobutane (3) from the Lemmon and Jacobson model⁵ (top) and the Miyamoto and Watanabe model⁶ (bottom), this work: ○, $x_1 = 0.250$; △, $x_1 = 0.499$; □, $x_1 = 0.750$; ◆, Hiza et al.²⁰

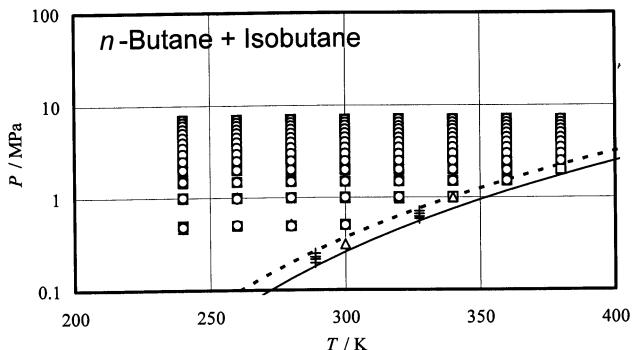


Figure 12. PVT_x data distribution for the binary system *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3), this work: △, $x_2 = 0.500$; □, $x_2 = 0.751$; +, Kahre;¹⁴ calculated vapor-pressure curves, - -, *n*-butane (2);² - - -, isobutane (3).³

sented to within $\pm 0.2\%$ except in the higher temperature range, so the present EoS is expected to have a reproducibility of $\pm 0.2\%$ within its effective temperature range.

Because the experimental temperature range is lower than the critical temperatures of *n*-butane (2) and isobutane (3), the present EoS can successfully represent the present data for the binary system *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3) within $\pm 0.1\%$ except at 380 K as shown in Figure 20. The measurements by Kahre¹⁴ also agree with the baseline within $\pm 0.1\%$.

From Figure 21, the data for the ternary system propane (1) + *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3) were also well reproduced within $\pm 0.16\%$ except for some data at 380 K for the propane-rich composition ($x_1, x_2 = 0.600, 0.200$). Because the ternary data could be successfully predicted despite the fact that these data were not used as input data, we can confirm the ability of the present mixing rule. It can be concluded, therefore, that the present EoS can reproduce the liquid-phase PVT_x properties well over the entire composition range for the ternary system propane

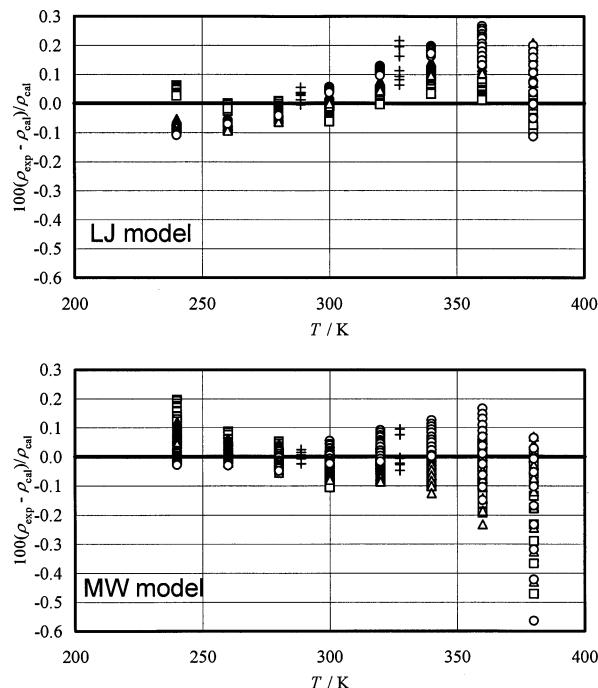


Figure 13. Relative density deviation of the present liquid PVT data for the binary system *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3) from the Lemmon and Jacobsen model⁵ (top) and the Miyamoto and Watanabe model⁶ (bottom), this work: \triangle , $x_2 = 0.500$; \square , $x_2 = 0.751$; $+$, Kahre.¹⁴

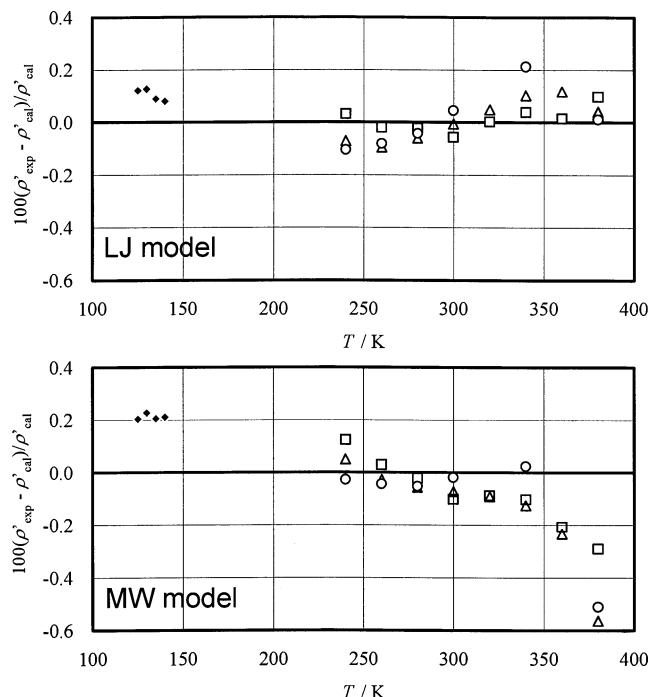


Figure 14. Relative deviation of the saturated-liquid density of the binary system *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3) from the Lemmon and Jacobsen model⁵ (top) and the Miyamoto and Watanabe model⁶ (bottom), this work: \triangle , $x_1 = 0.500$; \square , $x_1 = 0.751$; $*$, Hida et al.²⁰

(1) + *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3), including the binary system and the pure components.

Comparison with the Available Models. The present model for the liquid-phase PVT_x properties for the binary and ternary systems of propane (1), *n*-butane (2), and isobutane (3) was compared with the available two models of Lemmon and Jacobsen⁵ (LJ) and Miyamoto and Wa-

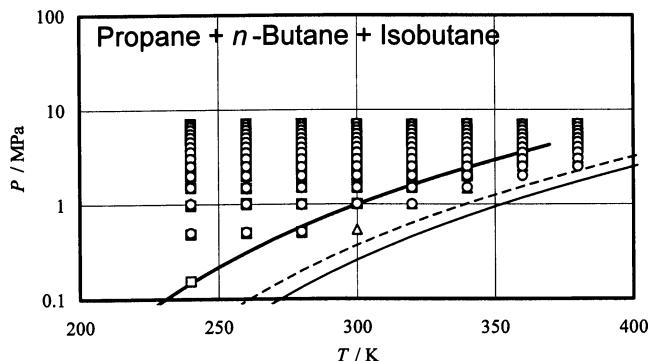


Figure 15. PVT_x data distribution for the ternary system propane (1) + *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3), this work: \circ , $(x_1, x_2) = (0.200, 0.600)$; \triangle , $(x_1, x_2) = (0.330, 0.340)$; \square , $(x_1, x_2) = (0.600, 0.200)$; calculated vapor-pressure curves, —, propane (1),¹ —, *n*-butane (2),² and ---, isobutane (3).³

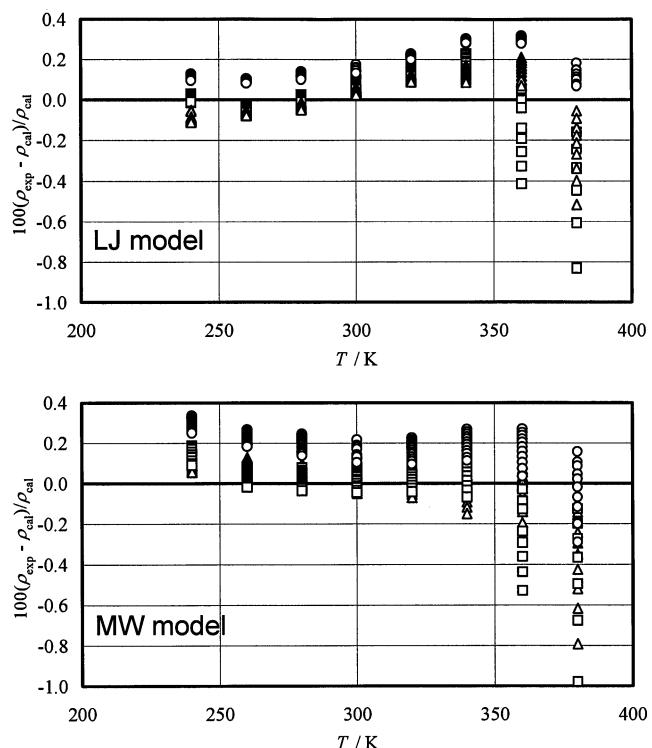


Figure 16. Relative density deviation of the present liquid PVT data for the ternary system propane (1) + *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3) from the Lemmon and Jacobsen model⁵ (top) and the Miyamoto and Watanabe model⁶ (bottom), this work: \circ , $(x_1, x_2) = (0.200, 0.600)$; \triangle , $(x_1, x_2) = (0.330, 0.340)$; \square , $(x_1, x_2) = (0.600, 0.200)$.

tanabe⁶ (MW) by calculating the statistical indicators with the present measured data tabulated in Table 2. Only the limited data measured at temperatures lower than $0.9T_C$ were used for the calculation. The definition of the pseudo-critical temperature given in eq 7 was used for the calculation of the reduced temperature.

First, the present model shows the best performance of AAD, BIAS, STD, and RMS because binary interaction parameters k_{12} , k_{13} , and k_{23} were determined from the present data. In the comparison of the other two models, the MW model performs slightly better. Because the LJ model employs the generalized mixing rule that can be applied for any mixture system, the respective reproducibility for a certain mixture is not always better than a model that has been fit to the experimental data. It should also be noted that the LJ model was developed under the condition that the EoS by Younglove and Ely¹⁹ are adopted

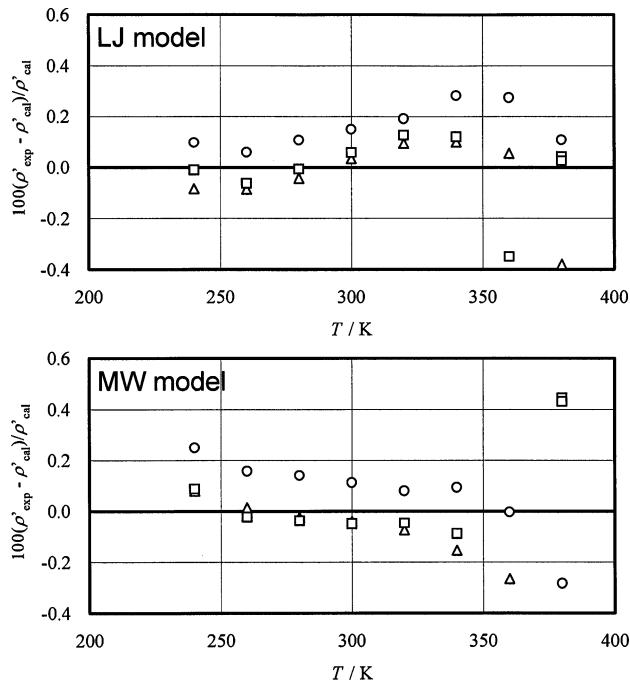


Figure 17. Relative deviation of the saturated-liquid density of the binary system n-butane (2) + isobutane (3) from the Lemmon and Jacobsen model¹⁵ (top) and the Miyamoto and Watanabe model¹⁶ (bottom), this work: ○, $(x_1, x_2) = (0.200, 0.600)$; △, $(x_1, x_2) = (0.330, 0.340)$; □, $(x_1, x_2) = (0.600, 0.200)$.

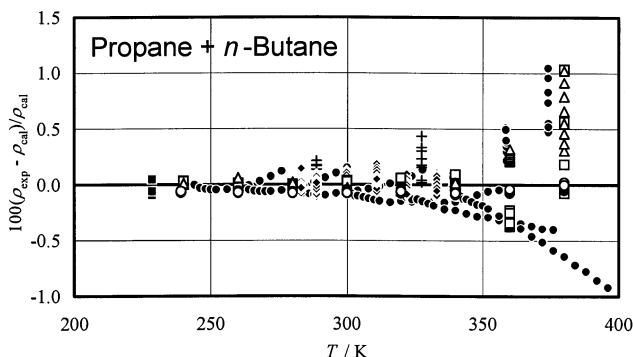


Figure 18. Relative density deviation of the liquid-phase PVTx data for the binary system propane (1) + n-butane (2) from eq 5, this work: ○, $x_1 = 0.250$; △, $x_1 = 0.500$; □, $x_1 = 0.750$; ●, Holcom et al.¹²; +, Kahre¹⁴; ♦, Parrish¹³; ■, Thompson and Miller.¹⁵

as the part for pure components of propane (1), n-butane (2), and isobutane (3). The pure-component part is updated for the EoS by Miyamoto and Watanabe^{1,2,3} with the latest version of REFPROP. Hence, it is understood that the LJ model is not optimized with pure-fluid EoS by Miyamoto and Watanabe.

Given such conditions for modeling, the LJ model still shows good performance for the present binary and ternary systems. This is probably because the system consists of similar hydrocarbon components and therefore the thermodynamic behavior of the system is close to the predicted behavior calculated by the generalized mixing rule.

Derived Properties. Subsequently, the consistency of the EoS developed in the present study was examined by calculating the derived properties including the isothermal compressibility κ_T , isobaric heat capacity c_P , and speed of sound w . As examples, these properties for the ternary system with the mole fraction $(x_1, x_2) = (0.6, 0.2)$ were calculated and illustrated in Figures 22 through 24. It

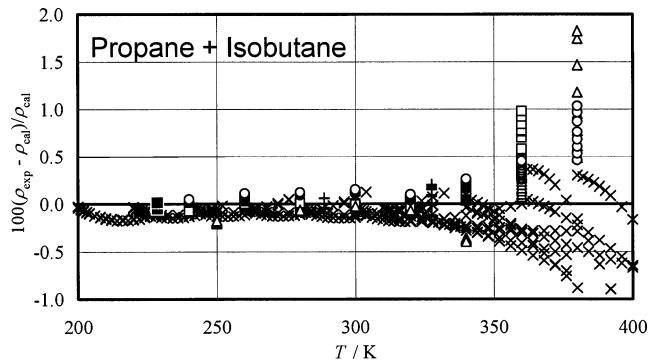


Figure 19. Relative density deviation of the liquid-phase PVTx data for the binary system propane (1) + n-butane (2) from eq 5, this work: ○, $x_1 = 0.250$; △, $x_1 = 0.499$; □, $x_1 = 0.750$; ×, Duarte-Garza and Magee;¹⁶ +, Kahre¹⁴; ■, Thompson et al.¹⁵

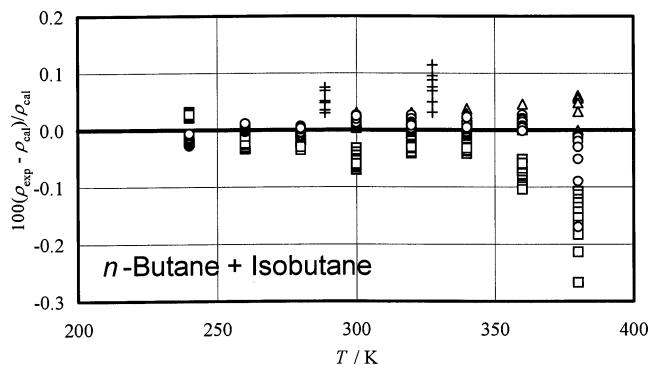


Figure 20. Relative density deviation of the liquid-phase PVTx data for the binary system propane (1) + n-butane (2) from eq 5, this work: △, $x_2 = 0.500$; □, $x_2 = 0.751$; +, Kahre.¹⁴

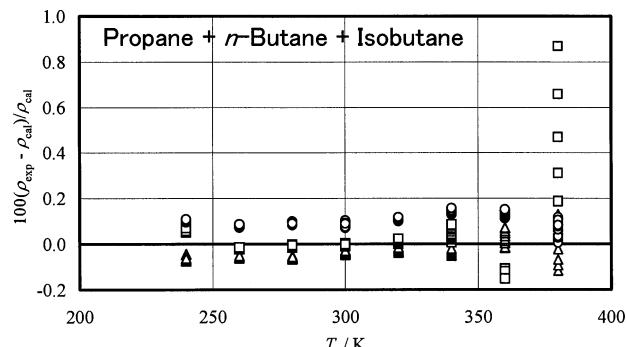


Figure 21. Relative density deviation of the liquid-phase PVTx data for the binary system propane (1) + n-butane (2) from eq 5, this work: ○, $(x_1, x_2) = (0.200, 0.600)$; △, $(x_1, x_2) = (0.330, 0.340)$; □, $(x_1, x_2) = (0.600, 0.200)$.

should be noted that the isobaric heat capacities for the saturated liquid were calculated from the MW model.⁶

$$c_P = c'_P - \int_{P_S}^P T \left(\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial T^2} \right)_P dP \quad (26)$$

$$w = \sqrt{\frac{c_P}{\rho \alpha_T c_v}} \quad (27)$$

$$\kappa_T = \frac{C}{A + P} \quad (28)$$

As for the EoS for the pure components, reasonable behavior of the property surface was confirmed.⁹ However, the present mixing rule is applied for each of the numerical

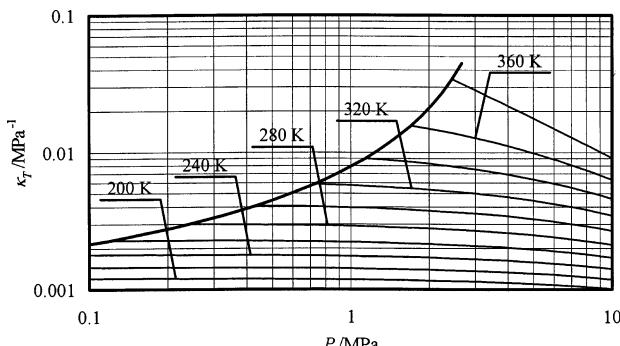


Figure 22. Pressure dependence of the isothermal compressibility for the ternary system propane (1) + *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3) ($x_1, x_2 = (0.6, 0.2)$) derived from eq 5.

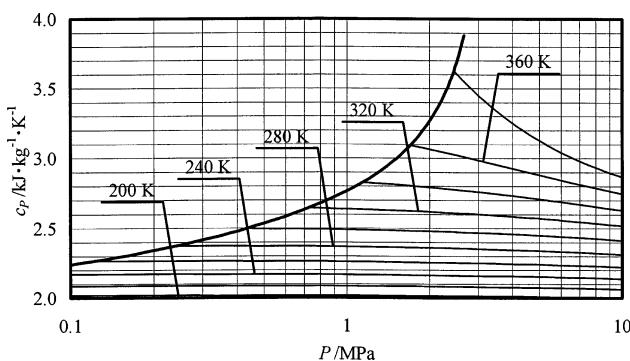


Figure 23. Pressure dependence of the isobaric heat capacity for the ternary system propane (1) + *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3) ($x_1, x_2 = (0.6, 0.2)$) derived from eq 5.

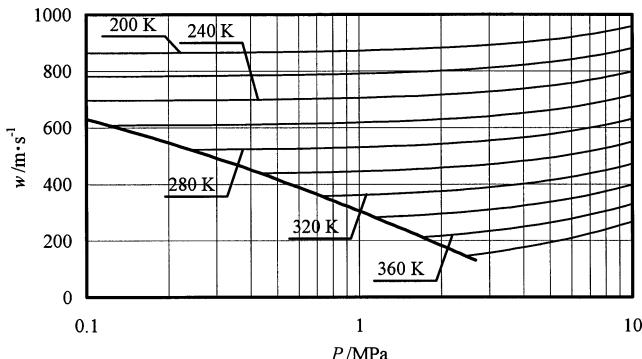


Figure 24. Pressure dependence of the speed of sound for the ternary system propane (1) + *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3) ($x_1, x_2 = (0.6, 0.2)$) derived from eq 5.

constants $a_{m,0}$ through $d_{m,2}$, so it does not necessarily mean that the calculated mixture properties are thermodynamically compatible. Figures 22 through 24 show that thermodynamically sound behavior of these derived properties are clearly observed. Therefore, it can be concluded that the present mixing rule not only satisfactorily reproduces the *PVTx* properties over the entire composition range but that it is also thermodynamically consistent.

Conclusions

In the present study, more than 1000 *PVTx* properties were obtained for the binary and ternary systems of propane (1), *n*-butane (2), and isobutane (3). The bubble-point pressures and saturated-liquid densities were also reported. The present measurements contain the first set of *PVTx* properties for the ternary system and also the first wide-range data for the binary system *n*-butane (2) + isobutane (3).

The measured data were compared with two available mixture thermodynamic models, the Lemmon and Jacobsen model⁵ and the Miyamoto and Watanabe model.⁶ As a result of the comparison, it was found that both models represent the present data well within $\pm 0.2\%$ at moderate temperatures ($T < 0.9T_C$) but the deviation spreads at higher temperatures.

On the basis of the present measurements, a simple mixing rule for the modified Tait equation of state (Sato EoS) that was fitted separately to the pure-component data was proposed. By employing binary interaction parameters k_{ij} , not only the binary *PVTx* properties but also the ternary data were well reproduced. The thermodynamically sound behavior of the EoS was also confirmed by calculating the property surfaces of the isothermal compressibility, isobaric heat capacity, and speed of sound.

Acknowledgment

We are grateful to Dr. Hiroyuki Miyamoto for the calculations with his EoS program and for offering the literature data.

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Received for review September 14, 2004. Accepted November 10, 2004. Financial support by the Grant-in-aid for Scientific Research Fund from 2000 to 2002 (project no. 12450090), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan, is acknowledged.

JE049671T