

Vapor–Liquid Equilibrium for Binary System of 1-Propanethiol, Thiophene, and Diethyl Sulfide with Toluene at 90.03 kPa

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Isobaric vapor–liquid equilibrium (VLE) for three systems with different organic sulfur compounds (1-propanethiol + toluene, thiophene + toluene, and diethyl sulfide + toluene) were measured at 90.03 kPa with a circulation still. The experimental results were compared with original UNIFAC, UNIFAC-Dortmund, and COSMO-RS predictive models. All systems showed nearly ideal behavior. VLE data sets measured passed the point consistency test.

Introduction

The regulation for sulfur contents in gasoline has become stricter recently. The new allowable levels vary; 30 ppm in Canada from 2004, 50 ppm in Europe from 2005, and 10 ppm in the United States from 2006.¹ As a consequence, the sulfur removal processes play an important part in refinery plant operations.

Thiols, sulfides, and thiophenes are the major impurities present in crude oils and are also found in distillates and in products from cracking, coking, and alkylation processes.² Design of separation processes to accomplish the removal of sulfur compounds requires the knowledge of the VLE of sulfur compounds with hydrocarbons.

In this work, isobaric VLE data for binary system of 1-propanethiol + toluene, thiophene + toluene, and diethyl sulfide + toluene were measured by using a circulation still at 90.03 kPa. The diethyl sulfide + toluene system studied in this work was not found in the open literature. Kilner et al.³ measured VLE of 1-propanethiol + toluene at mole fraction from 0 to 0.2 over a temperature range from (323 to 373) K by using a static apparatus. Two VLE literature data sets of thiophene + toluene measured at (100 and 101.3) kPa were found in data compilations.^{4,5}

Experimental Section

Materials. 1-Propanethiol, diethyl sulfide, thiophene, and toluene were provided by Sigma Aldrich, Finland; *o*-xylene was purchased from Fluka, Finland. The purity of all substances was checked by gas chromatography (GC) equipped with a flame ionization detector. Toluene and *o*-xylene were dried over molecular sieves (Merck 3A) for 24 h. The sulfur compounds were used as purchased without further purification. The refractive index (n_D) of the pure liquids were measured at 298.15 K with ABBEMAT-HP automatic refractometer (Dr. Kernchen, Germany) with accuracy ± 0.00002 , and the water content was determined with a DL38 KF titrator (Mettler Toledo). The water content determination of 1-propanethiol was not possible directly as the iodine oxidizes the SH group of the compound very quickly. The purity, water content, and measured refractive

Table 1. Purity, Water Content, and Refractive Indexes (n_D) of Pure Components

component	GC purity	water content	n_D (298.15 K)	
	(mass %)	(mass %)	exptl	literature ⁶
1-propanethiol	99.98		1.4353	1.4353
thiophene	99.98	0.02	1.5255	1.5257
diethyl sulfide	99.72	0.00	1.4400	1.4402
toluene	99.95	0.02	1.4939	1.4941
<i>o</i> -xylene	99.33	0.02	1.5026	1.5029

indexes are presented in Table 1. The measured refractive indexes corresponded well with literature values.⁶

Apparatus. The VLE runs were conducted with a circulation still of the Yerazunis-type⁷ built at the glass workshop of Helsinki University of Technology with minor modifications to the original design.⁸ Experimental setup is described in detail in the previous works.^{8,9} Approximately 80 mL of reagents was needed to run the apparatus.

Temperatures were measured with Pt-100 resistant temperature probe, which was located at the bottom of the packed section of the equilibrium chamber and connected to Thermometer F200 (Tempcontrol) with an accuracy of ± 0.02 K and the calibration uncertainty was ± 0.01 K. The uncertainty of the whole temperature measurement system is estimated to be ± 0.05 K.

Pressure was measured with a Druck pressure transducer PMP 4070 (0 to 100 kPa) connected to a Red Lion panel meter. The inaccuracy of the instruments was reported to be ± 0.07 kPa by the manufacturer. The pressure measurement system was calibrated against BEAMEX PC 105-1166 pressure calibrator. The inaccuracy of the whole pressure measurement system including the calibration uncertainty is expected to be less than ± 0.17 kPa. To improve mixing in the sampling chambers and mixing chamber of the condensed vapor phase and the liquid phase, DC electric motors (Graupner speed 400) were equipped with magnetic stirrer bars, which deliver stirring action in the chambers.

Experimental Procedures. Pure component 1 was introduced in the circulation still, and its vapor pressure was measured at several temperatures. Then component 2 was introduced into the circulation still. It took approximately from (15 to 30) min to achieve constant temperature. The temperature was held constant for approximately (30 to 45) min before sampling.

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After equilibration, the temperature in the equilibrium cell was measured, and then vapor and liquid samples were withdrawn with a 1 mL Hamilton Sample Lock syringe and after that injected into the cooled 2 mL autosampler vial containing approximately 1 mL of *o*-xylene. The compositions of both samples were immediately measured by gas chromatography (GC). To prevent spreading of the unpleasant odor of the sulfur compounds, the GC was placed in a closed and ventilated cupboard.

Analysis and GC Calibration. The liquid and vapor samples were analyzed with a HP 6850A gas chromatograph equipped with an autosampler and a flame ionization detector (FID). The GC column used was a HP-1 dimethylpolysiloxane (60.0 m × 250 μm × 1.0 μm). The injector and FID were set at 250 °C. Helium was used as the carrier gas at a constant flow rate of 1 mL·min⁻¹ and inlet split ratio 100:1. The initial oven temperature was held at 70 °C for 2 min and then increased subsequently to 150 °C at rate of 8 °C·min⁻¹ and was held at 150 °C for 5 min. The total run time was 17 min.

The pure components were used to determine the retention times, after that the GC was calibrated with 15 mixtures of known composition that were prepared gravimetrically. To reduce the volume of the sample, *o*-xylene was used as solvent.

The response factor of component 2 (F_2) was calculated from eq 1:

$$\frac{m_2 A_1}{m_1 A_2} = F_2 \quad (1)$$

Therefore, the vapor or liquid composition of component 1 can be calculated from

$$x_1 = \frac{\frac{A_1}{M_1}}{\frac{A_1}{M_1} + \left(F_2 \frac{A_2}{M_2}\right)} \quad (2)$$

where A_1 and A_2 are the GC peak areas; M_1 and M_2 are the molar masses; and m_1 and m_2 were masses in the gravimetrically prepared sample of components 1 and 2, respectively. The maximum error of liquid and vapor composition measurements is estimated to be 0.003 mole fraction.

Data Reduction. The activity coefficients γ_i were calculated from

$$\gamma_i = \frac{y_i P \phi_i}{x_i P_i^s \phi_i^s} \exp \int_P^{P_i^s} \frac{V_i^L}{RT} dP \quad (3)$$

where y_i is the mole fraction of component i in the vapor phase, P is the total pressure of the system, ϕ_i is the fugacity coefficient of component i in the vapor phase, x_i is mole fraction of the component i in the liquid phase, P_i^s is the vapor pressure of pure component i at the system temperature, ϕ_i^s is the pure component saturated liquid fugacity coefficient at the system temperature T , V_i^L is the molar volume of pure component i in liquid phase at the system temperature and pressure, T is temperature in Kelvin, and R is the universal gas constant (8.31441 J·K⁻¹·mol⁻¹).

The VLEFIT program¹⁰ was used for processing all the data. The Soave–Redlich–Kwong equation of state with quadratic mixing rules in the attractive parameter and linear in co-volume was used for vapor-phase fugacity coefficient calculation.¹¹ The binary interaction parameter in the quadratic mixing rules was set to zero. The Rackett equation¹² was used to calculate the

Table 2. Physical Properties of the Pure Components Used in Calculations^a

component	1-propanethiol	thiophene	diethyl sulfide	toluene
T_c^b /K	536.00	579.35	557.15	591.79
P_c^b /MPa	4.63	5.690	3.962	4.109
ω^b	0.235	0.193	0.294	0.264
v_i^b /cm ³ ·mol ⁻¹	91.068	79.477	123.739	106.556
A^c	7.0174 ^d	7.0923 ^e	6.9925 ^f	6.7321 ^g
B^c	2724.9699 ^d	2869.0277 ^e	2894.0403 ^f	2869.7197 ^g
C^c	-47.9846 ^d	-51.4575 ^e	-53.3224 ^f	-65.4951 ^g
T_{\min} /K	310.52	328.01	333.82	335.00
T_{\max} /K	375.24	380.89	383.32	379.44

^a Critical temperature (T_c), critical pressure (P_c), acentric factor (ω), liquid molar volume (v_i) at 298.15 K, pure component vapor pressure equation parameters (A , B , and C) for the Antoine equation. Vapor pressure data measured; recommended temperature range of the vapor pressure correlation (T_{\min}), (T_{\max}). ^b Ref 6. ^c Antoine parameters fitted from the measured data in this work using additional data points from literature. P^s /MPa = exp($A - [B/(TK + C)]$). ^d 1-Propanethiol, this work combined with literature values¹⁶ from (120.79 to 270.10) kPa at (346.49 to 375.24) K. ^e Thiophene, this work combined with literature values¹⁷ from (101.29 to 198.55) kPa at (357.31 to 380.89) K. ^f Diethyl sulfide, this work combined with literature values¹⁸ from (120.78 to 169.06) kPa at (371.22 to 383.32) K. ^g Toluene, this work combined with literature values¹⁹ from (19.92 to 34.90) kPa at (335 to 350.09) K.

liquid molar volume in the pointing factor. The Antoine parameters for vapor pressure, critical temperature, critical pressure, acentric factor, and liquid molar volume for each component used in the calculations are presented in Table 2.

COSMO-RS Calculation. The COSMO-RS calculations were performed using a continuum model with density functional theory (RI-DFT) using BP functional with TZVP basis set as it was implemented in Turbomole program¹³ (version 5.7). Geometry optimization for the molecules under investigation was performed with Turbomole software as well. Subsequent COSMO-RS calculations were done with COSMOtherm-C12-0105.¹⁴

In the COSMO-RS calculations, several conformers were taken into account for 1-propanethiol and diethyl sulfide. For toluene and thiophene, only one stable conformer was found and then used for further calculations. To improve the description of these sulfur compound systems, the van der Waals interaction term from surface binary interaction energy was excluded.¹⁵

Results and Discussion

Vapor Pressure Measurements. The vapor pressures of pure components measured in this work are shown in Figure 1 and presented in Table 3. The measured vapor pressure of each component was compared with literature correlation⁶ and COSMO-RS prediction. The absolute average deviation of pressure between experimental and literature correlation⁶ for 1-propanethiol, thiophene, diethyl sulfide, and toluene were (0.39, 0.18, 0.8, and 0.36) kPa, respectively. Measured vapor pressures of 1-propanethiol, thiophene, diethyl sulfide, and toluene are inline with ones measured by Pennington et al.,¹⁶ Waddington et al.,¹⁷ Scott et al.,¹⁸ and Willingham et al.,¹⁹ respectively.

The Antoine constants for all compounds were regressed from the vapor pressures measured in this work using additional data points from literature. These parameters with the recommended temperature range of the vapor pressure equations are presented in Table 2. The vapor pressure correlation for 1-propanethiol was slightly extrapolated to 377.84 K.

Pure component's vapor pressures predicted with COSMO-RS were higher than experimental ones. As an example the esti-

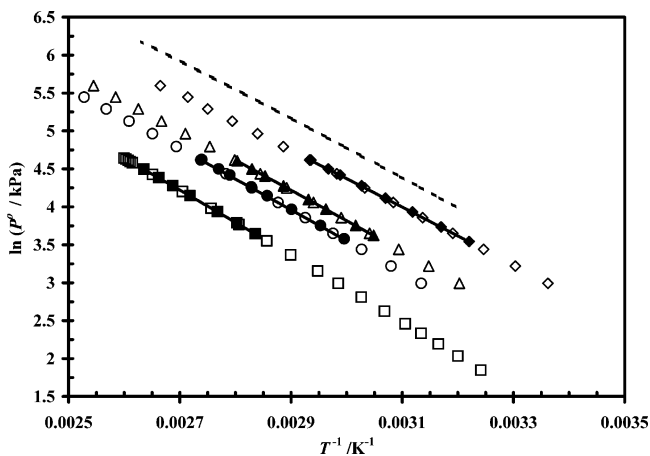


Figure 1. Measured vapor pressures of pure substances in this work: \blacklozenge , 1-propanethiol; \blacktriangle , thiophene; \bullet , diethyl sulfide; \blacksquare , toluene. Measured vapor pressure from literature: \diamond , 1-propanethiol;¹⁶ \triangle , thiophene;¹⁷ \circ , diethyl sulfide;¹⁸ \square , toluene;¹⁹ $-$, calculated from literature correlation;⁶ $---$, 1-propanethiol, COSMO-RS.

Table 3. Experimental Vapor Pressure of 1-Propanethiol, Thiophene, Diethyl Sulfide, and Toluene

1-propanethiol		thiophene		diethyl sulfide		toluene	
<i>T</i> /K	<i>P</i> /kPa	<i>T</i> /K	<i>P</i> /kPa	<i>T</i> /K	<i>P</i> /kPa	<i>T</i> /K	<i>P</i> /kPa
340.63	101.19	356.73	99.99	365.05	101.92	379.44	90.03
337.03	90.03	353.38	90.03	361.02	90.03	375.63	80.42
334.62	83.15	350.46	82.01	358.41	83.03	372.12	72.27
330.38	72.02	346.44	71.92	353.56	71.09	367.88	63.37
325.73	61.23	341.13	60.12	350.02	63.30	361.31	51.31
320.68	51.03	337.52	53.02	344.70	52.89	356.84	44.23
315.47	41.96	331.52	42.75	338.63	42.73	352.64	38.32
310.52	34.60	328.01	37.50	333.82	35.84		

Table 4. Isobaric VLE Data, Liquid Phase (x_1), and Vapor Phase (y_1) Mole Fractions, Temperature (T), and Activity Coefficient (γ_1) for the Diethyl Sulfide (1) + Toluene (2) System at 90.03 kPa

x_1	y_1	<i>T</i> /K	γ_1	γ_2	x_1	y_1	<i>T</i> /K	γ_1	γ_2
0.000	0.000	379.45		1.00	0.488	0.623	369.25	1.01	0.99
0.012	0.020	379.20	1.00	1.00	0.580	0.701	367.74	1.00	1.00
0.046	0.074	378.42	1.00	1.00	0.643	0.755	366.68	1.00	1.00
0.081	0.128	377.61	1.00	1.00	0.712	0.809	365.51	1.00	1.00
0.121	0.185	376.75	1.00	1.00	0.782	0.860	364.36	1.00	1.01
0.167	0.252	375.73	1.00	1.00	0.853	0.909	363.18	1.01	1.01
0.219	0.318	374.65	0.99	1.00	0.899	0.938	362.50	1.01	1.01
0.282	0.397	373.35	1.00	1.00	0.960	0.976	361.56	1.01	1.01
0.343	0.464	372.14	0.99	1.01	1.000	1.000	361.03	1.00	
0.413	0.544	370.75	1.00	1.00					

mated vapor pressure of 1-propanethiol was presented in Figure 1. The absolute average deviation of pressure of 1-propanethiol between COSMO-RS prediction and experimental was 27 kPa. Similar behavior was shown as well by the other compounds. Thus, the experimentally determined pure component vapor pressures were used in the COSMO-RS calculations.

Vapor–Liquid Equilibrium Measurements. The measured isobaric equilibrium data (T , x_1 , and y_1) and calculated activity coefficients are reported in Tables 4 to 6 and presented in Figures 2 to 4. All systems show nearly ideal behavior, and no azeotropes were found in the systems.

Comparisons of the experimental data and VLE at 90.03 kPa predicted with original UNIFAC²⁰ with the parameters on the level of Wittig et al.²¹ and COSMO-RS models are shown in Figures 2 to 4. In both models all interactions between molecules in liquid phase are considered as interactions pairwise contacting molecular surfaces. However, in COSMO-RS the interactions are based on molecule surface screening charge densities, calculated by quantum mechanical method (COSMO) for a

Table 5. Isobaric VLE Data, Liquid Phase (x_1), and Vapor Phase (y_1) Mole Fractions, Temperature (T), and Activity Coefficient (γ_1) for the 1-Propanethiol (1) + Toluene (2) System at 90.03 kPa

x_1	y_1	<i>T</i> /K	γ_1	γ_2	x_1	y_1	<i>T</i> /K	γ_1	γ_2
0.000	0.000	379.44		1.00	0.493	0.778	352.05	1.01	1.03
0.021	0.065	377.84	1.01 ^a	1.00 ^a	0.559	0.822	349.55	1.01	1.03
0.065	0.182	374.61	1.00	1.01	0.632	0.862	347.14	1.01	1.04
0.122	0.318	370.84	1.02	1.00	0.694	0.892	345.12	1.01	1.05
0.176	0.416	367.16	1.01	1.02	0.747	0.916	343.59	1.00	1.05
0.211	0.479	365.41	1.01	1.00	0.818	0.944	341.56	1.00	1.06
0.258	0.545	362.79	1.01	1.01	0.850	0.956	340.63	1.01	1.05
0.311	0.607	360.19	1.00	1.02	0.898	0.971	339.42	1.01	1.07
0.354	0.655	358.03	1.00	1.03	0.936	0.982	338.49	1.00	1.07
0.393	0.695	356.19	1.01	1.02	0.986	0.996	337.32	1.00	1.06
0.446	0.741	353.95	1.01	1.03	1.000	1.000	337.03	1.00	

^a The vapor pressure correlation of 1-propanethiol was slightly extrapolated.

Table 6. Isobaric VLE Data, Liquid Phase (x_1), and Vapor Phase (y_1) Mole Fractions, Temperature (T), and Activity Coefficient (γ_1) for the Thiophene (1) + Toluene (2) System at 90.03 kPa

x_1	y_1	<i>T</i> /K	γ_1	γ_2	x_1	y_1	<i>T</i> /K	γ_1	γ_2
0.000	0.000	379.44		1.00	0.395	0.581	366.62	1.00	1.01
0.010	0.020	379.09	1.01	1.00	0.468	0.654	364.63	1.01	1.01
0.025	0.051	378.52	1.02	1.00	0.529	0.708	363.08	1.01	1.01
0.039	0.078	378.03	1.02	1.00	0.604	0.770	361.32	1.01	1.00
0.059	0.116	377.31	1.00	1.00	0.694	0.834	359.27	1.01	1.00
0.086	0.165	376.32	1.00	1.00	0.743	0.865	358.29	1.01	1.00
0.111	0.207	375.43	1.00	1.00	0.791	0.892	357.32	1.00	1.01
0.146	0.264	374.20	1.00	1.00	0.835	0.918	356.43	1.00	1.01
0.204	0.355	372.21	1.02	1.00	0.905	0.951	355.23	1.00	1.09
0.255	0.423	370.62	1.01	1.00	0.925	0.965	354.74	1.00	1.02
0.317	0.500	368.61	1.02	1.01	1.000	1.000	353.38	1.00	

single molecule in a conductor surrounding.²² In UNIFAC interaction parameters of the molecule functional groups are treated as parameters fitted empirically to extensive experimental data collection. Considering a single molecule as an entity enables COSMO-RS to take into account intermolecular interactions.

At present original UNIFAC and especially UNIFAC-Dortmund²³ with parameters on the level of Wittig et al.²⁴ have been extensively refined, providing good prediction for the systems, where the group interaction parameters are available. However, the original UNIFAC interaction parameter for sulfides (CH₂S) and toluene (ACH) binary pair is not available, hence the original UNIFAC prediction for diethyl sulfide + toluene system is not possible. As can be seen from Figure 2, the prediction of COSMO-RS is close to experimental results.

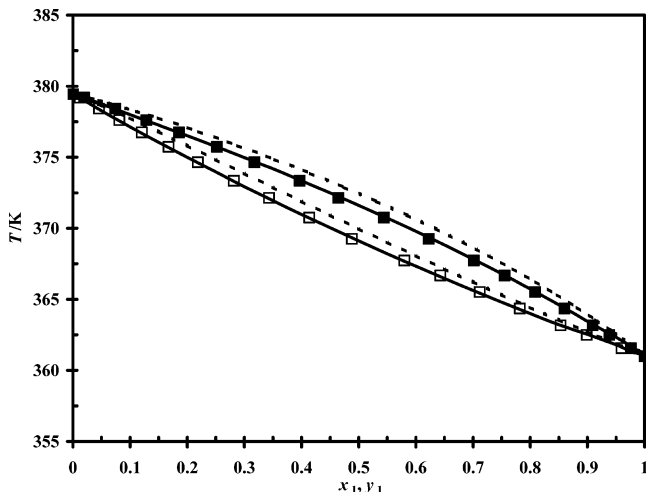


Figure 2. Temperature–composition diagram for the diethyl sulfide (1) + toluene (2) system at 90.03 kPa: \square , x_1 measured; \blacksquare , y_1 measured; $-$, COSMO-RS, modified; $---$, COSMO-RS.

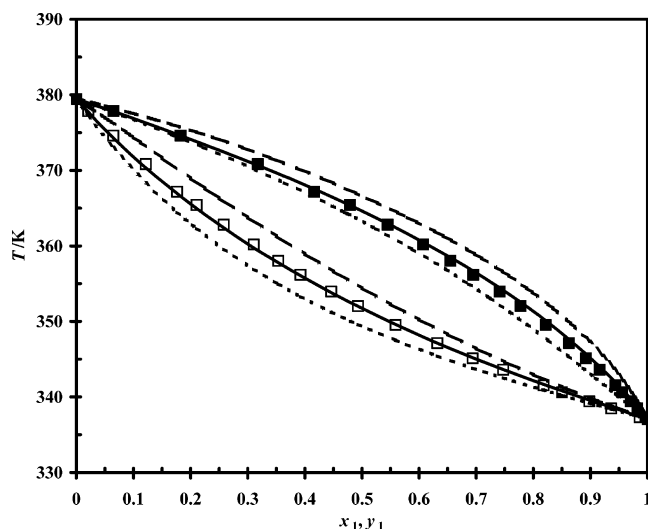


Figure 3. Temperature–composition diagram for the 1-propanethiol (1) + toluene (2) system at 90.03 kPa: \square , x_1 measured; \blacksquare , y_1 measured; —, COSMO-RS, modified; --, COSMO-RS; -.-, UNIFAC.

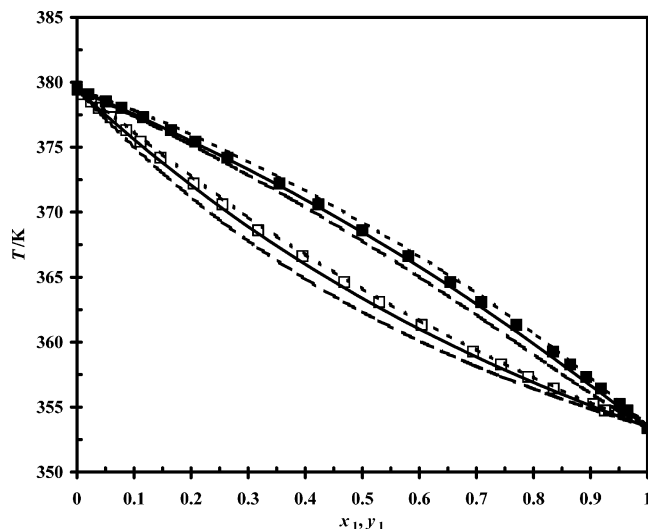


Figure 4. Temperature–composition diagram for the thiophene (1) + toluene (2) system at 90.03 kPa: \square , x_1 measured; \blacksquare , y_1 measured; —, UNIFAC-Dortmund; --, UNIFAC; -.-, COSMO-RS.

Table 7. Averages of Absolute Vapor Molar Fraction Residual Δy_{ave} and Temperature Residuals ΔT_{ave} for the Wilson Fits for the Measured Systems at 90.03 kPa

systems	Δy_{ave}	$\Delta T_{ave}/K$
diethyl sulfide (1) + toluene (2)	0.0008	0.07
1-propanethiol (1) + toluene (2)	0.0037	0.12
thiophene (1) + toluene (2)	0.0012	0.08

In Figure 3, the predictions of original UNIFAC and COSMO-RS for the 1-propanethiol + toluene system are comparable even though they do not match well with experimental data.

The thiophene + toluene system was predicted using UNIFAC-Dortmund and COSMO-RS models. From the Figure 4, it is shown that the predictions with COSMO-RS are slightly better as compared to UNIFAC-Dortmund, while original UNIFAC gave unsatisfactory results.

For the sulfur-containing systems, the modification of the COSMO-RS model by exclusion of the van der Waals interaction from binary surface interaction energy improves the quality of the prediction. The results of the prediction of our VLE systems with the modified COSMO-RS are shown in Figures 2 to

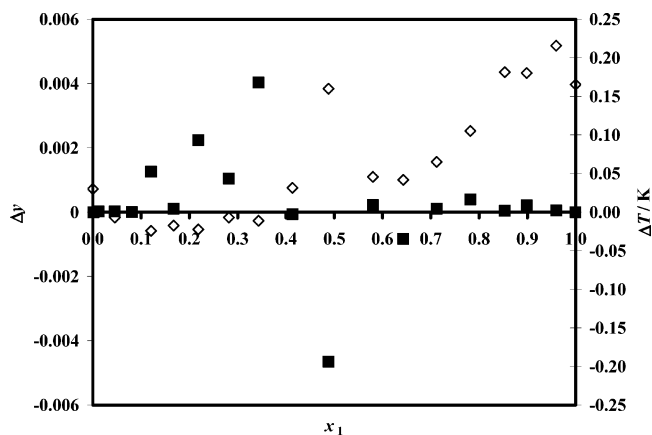


Figure 5. Point test for the diethyl sulfide (1) + toluene (2) system at 90.03 kPa (Wilson model): \blacksquare , Δy ; \diamond , ΔT .

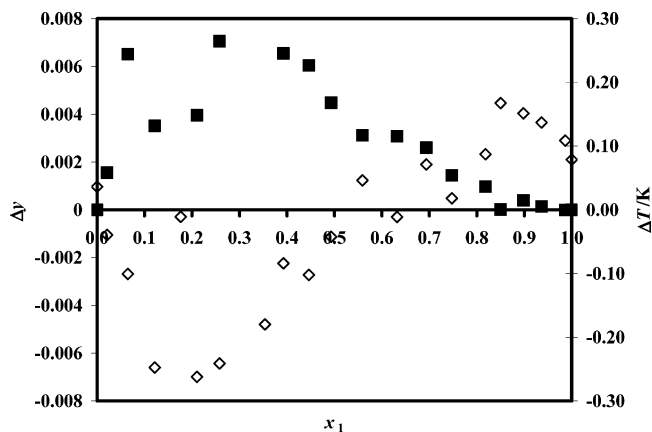


Figure 6. Point test for the 1-propanethiol (1) + toluene (2) system at 90.03 kPa (Wilson model): \blacksquare , Δy ; \diamond , ΔT .

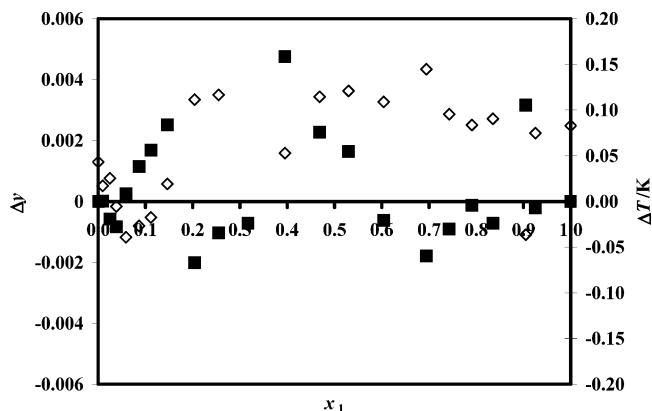


Figure 7. Point test for the thiophene (1) + toluene (2) system at 90.03 kPa (Wilson model): \blacksquare , Δy ; \diamond , ΔT .

4. The COSMO-RS model with the modification gave very accurate prediction of VLE also in very diluted regions for all systems.

The results of the point test²⁵ for all systems using fitted small λ parameters for the Wilson²⁶ model are presented in Table 7 and shown in Figures 5 to 7. The objective function¹⁰ (OF) used for fitting of the activity coefficient parameters is given by eq 4, where N is the number of points used in the fit:

$$OF = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left(\frac{|y_{i,model} - y_{i,meas}|}{y_{i,meas}} \right) \quad (4)$$

The data sets are considered consistent if the absolute average

deviations between the measured and calculated mole fractions of the vapor phase are smaller than 0.01. These measured data sets passed the point test. The integral test²⁵ is not applicable here because the activity coefficient range is very close to 1.

Conclusions

Vapor pressure of 1-propanethiol, thiophene, diethyl sulfide, and toluene were measured and compared with the literature data. Isobaric VLE data were measured for the systems 1-propanethiol + toluene, thiophene + toluene, and diethyl sulfide + toluene at 90.03 kPa with a circulation still. All of the systems show almost ideal behavior. The VLE data of the binary systems were predicted using original UNIFAC, UNIFAC-Dortmund, and COSMO-RS predictive models. The original UNIFAC gave the worse predictions as compared to UNIFAC-Dortmund. Exclusion of the van der Waals surface interaction term from COSMO-RS calculations improved the VLE prediction of these sulfur compound systems. VLE data sets measured passed the point consistency test.

Acknowledgment

The authors acknowledge CSC (Finnish Information Technology Center for Science) for the supplied computing resources in this project and Piia Haimi for pure component's water content measurements.

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Received for review March 1, 2006. Accepted May 11, 2006. The authors acknowledge Neste Jacobs Oy, Neste Oil Oyj, and TEKES (National Technology Agency of Finland) for the financial support.

JE060093L