

New Loading Technique for a Vibrating Tube Densimeter and Measurements of Liquid Densities up to 39.5 MPa for Binary and Ternary Mixtures of the Carbon Dioxide-Methanol-Propane System

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Special equipment has been designed and constructed to measure pressure-volume-temperature (PVT) data through the vibrating tube method. At constant temperature, pressure is increased by steps using a pressurizing cell. For each stabilized pressure value, the vibrating frequency of the tube is recorded and translated into density through calibration with known density samples. Experimental PVT measurements on several pure compounds and mixtures have been carried out. Data reliability has been verified by comparisons with literature data available for methane-, ethylene-, methanol-, propane-, 4-methyl-1-pentene-, and *n*-heptane-methylcyclopentane binary mixtures for temperatures between 298 and 398 K and pressures between 2.5 and 39.5 MPa. New data are given for binary and ternary liquid mixtures of the carbon dioxide-methanol-propane system at four temperatures, 323, 348, 373, and 398 K, between 2.5 and 39.5 MPa.

Introduction

The vibrating tube densimeter is widely distributed in laboratories. It is reliable and simple to use. Nevertheless, extension of its application to high-pressure pressure-volume-temperature (PVT) data of pure compounds and mixtures is far from trivial and requires the construction and setup of specific peripherals and development of a reliable experimental method.

In this work, only supercritical fluids and compressed liquids have been investigated.

Experimental Section

Generalities. The apparatus has been designed around the widely used commercial vibrating tube densimeter of Anton Paar, model DMA 512. The measuring cell (1-3) is composed of an oscillator (stainless U-tube of 2.4-mm internal diameter) containing 2 cm³ of liquid. The vibration period, τ , of the U-tube is represented, as a first approximation, by eq 1, where ρ is the density (kg·m⁻³) of the component inside

$$\tau^2 = (1/K)\rho + B \quad (1)$$

the U-tube and K and B are characteristic parameters. B is assumed to be temperature- and pressure-independent.

K , which is simultaneously dependent on temperature and pressure (4, 5), is determined by measuring τ for two components whose densities are known over a large range of pressure and temperature. In this work, the chosen two compounds are water (1) and nitrogen (2).

K is given by

$$K(T,P) = (\rho_1 - \rho_2)/(\tau_1^2 - \tau_2^2) \quad (2)$$

where ρ_1 and ρ_2 are the densities of compounds 1 and 2 under the same conditions of pressure P and temperature T . Discrete $K(T,P)$ values were determined by measurements of τ and the use of literature data for the density of water (6,

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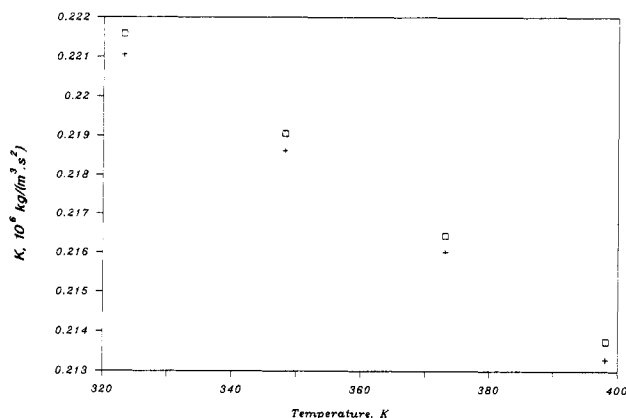


Figure 1. Characteristic parameter, K , of the vibrating tube as a function of temperature at different pressures: (□) $P = 5$ MPa, (+) $P = 22.5$ MPa.

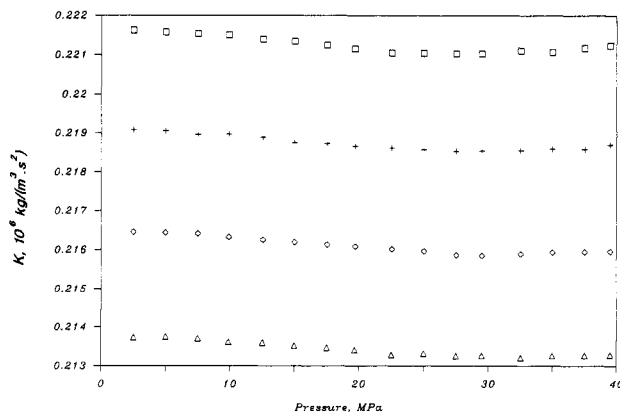


Figure 2. Characteristic parameter, K , of the vibrating tube as a function of pressure at different temperatures: (□) $T = 323.20$ K, (+) $T = 348.20$ K, (◇) $T = 373.15$ K, (Δ) $T = 398.15$ K.

7) and nitrogen (8). Figures 1 and 2 give examples of $K(T,P)$ values for several temperatures and pressures. Figure 1 shows the temperature influence on K at given pressures while figure 2 shows the pressure influence on K at given temperatures.

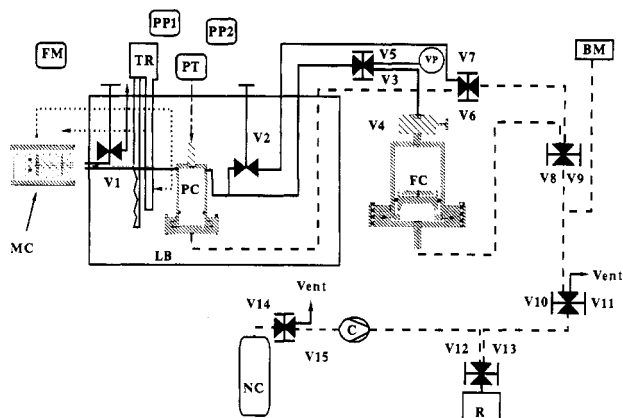


Figure 3. Flow diagram of the apparatus: (BM) Bourdon manometer, (C) compressor, (FC) feed cell, (FM) frequency meter, (LB) liquid bath, (MC) measurement cell, (NC) nitrogen cylinder, (PC) pressure-control cell, (PT) pressure transducer, (PP_i) platinum probe *i*, (R) reservoir, (TR) thermal regulator, pump, and stirrer, (V_{*i*}) shut-off valve *i*, (VP) vacuum pump, (---) circuit for temperature-regulating fluid, (- - -) pressure-control gas (nitrogen) circuit, (—) circuit of fluid under study or calibrating fluid.

Table 1. Molecular weight, Purity, and Origin of Pure Compounds

compound	mol wt	purity type	certified purity (%)	max water content (%)	supplier
<i>n</i> -heptane	100.21	GLC	99.9	0.005	Aldrich
methylcyclopentane	84.16	GLC	99		Fluka
ethylene	28.054	vol	99.95		Air Liquide
4-methyl-1-pentene	84.16	GLC	96		Interchim
methanol	32.042	GLC	99.5	0.01	Merck
propane	44.097	vol	99.95		Air Gaz
CO ₂	44.01	vol	99.995		Air Liquide
methane	16.043	vol	99.995		Air Liquide

Table 2. Molar Volume V_m of Methane as a Function of Pressure P at $T = 323.15$ K

P (MPa)	V_m^a (10 ⁻⁶ m ³ /mol)	V_m^b (10 ⁻⁶ m ³ /mol)	rel dev in molar vol [($\delta V_m/V_m$) $\times 100$] ^c
10.11	237.72	238.14	0.18
21.03	112.36	112.40	0.01
32.70	80.02	80.08	0.07
38.55	72.60	72.61	0.01

^a This work. ^b Reference 9. ^c $\delta V_m/V_m = (V_m(\text{this work}) - V_m(\text{ref 9}))/V_m(\text{this work})$.

Table 3. Molar Volume V_m of Ethylene as a Function of Pressure P at $T = 373.15$ K

P (MPa)	V_m^a (10 ⁻⁶ m ³ /mol)	V_m^b (10 ⁻⁶ m ³ /mol)	rel dev in molar vol [($\delta V_m/V_m$) $\times 100$] ^c
5.00	532.06	532.50	0.08
7.50	327.79	327.16	0.19

^a This work. ^b Reference 14. ^c $\delta V_m/V_m = (V_m(\text{this work}) - V_m(\text{ref 14}))/V_m(\text{this work})$.

Knowing the calibration function $K(T,P)$ and the period of vibration, τ , at T and P , the density, ρ , of a sample is given by

$$\rho(T,P) = \rho_1(T,P) + (\tau^2 - \tau_1^2)K(T,P) \quad (3)$$

Apparatus. The flow diagram of the apparatus is given in Figure 3. The measurement cell, MC, containing the vibrating tube is thermoregulated by circulating a liquid pumped from inside the regulating liquid bath, LB. A 100- Ω

Table 4. Specific Volume v of Methanol as a Function of Pressure P at $T = 373.15$ K

P (MPa)	v^a (10 ⁻³ m ³ /kg)	v^b (10 ⁻³ m ³ /kg)	rel dev in specific vol [($\delta v/v$) $\times 100$] ^c
2.50	1.401	1.4005	-0.04
5.00	1.394	1.3931	-0.07
10.00	1.380	1.3795	-0.04
20.00	1.356	1.3559	-0.01
30.00	1.336	1.3358	-0.01

^a This work. ^b Reference 15. ^c $\delta v/v = (v(\text{this work}) - v(\text{ref 15}))/v(\text{this work})$.

platinum probe, PP1, gives the temperature inside the vibrating tube. One side of the vibrating tube is closed by the shut-off valve, V₁. The other side is connected to the pressure-control cell, PC, and then to the feed cell, FC. The pressure-control and feed cells contain pistons to separate the fluid under study from the pressure-control gas (nitrogen) introduced at the bottom of the cells. Nitrogen can enter the measuring circuit through valves V₂ and V₇ for pressure transducer calibration purposes. The reservoir, R, contains nitrogen at a pressure much higher than 40 MPa; it is filled through a 110-MPa compressor (Nova Swiss).

Experimental Procedure. Calibrations. First of all, the platinum probes (Specitec) have been calibrated against a 25- Ω reference platinum probe (Lyon-Allemand-Louyot, model STHP-B) connected to a four-way digital multimeter (Enertec-Schlumberger, model 7081). The accuracy is estimated to be 0.02 K.

The pressure transducer (Sedeme, type CMB500) is calibrated at each working temperature against a digital manometer (Heise 0–25 MPa, model 901A, and Heise 0–50 MPa, model 710A). The two digital manometers are calibrated against a dead weight balance (Desgranges et Huot, model 5202). The final accuracy on measured pressures is about 0.05 MPa for pressures between 25 and 50 MPa and 0.03 MPa for pressures below 25 MPa.

Loading of the Measurement Cell. A pure liquid compound, such as water, is first degassed and then distilled under vacuum into the evacuated feed cell.

Loading is more complex for a binary mixture. First the degassed less volatile component is transferred by low-pressure distillation into the weighed (empty) feed cell. Then a new weighing of the feed cell is performed to know the exact amount introduced. Afterward, if it is a liquid, the second component is transferred in the same manner into the feed cell. If it is a gas, at feed conditions, it is introduced into the feed cell under pressure. A third weighing yields a determination of the mass of the second component and therefore the mixture composition. Weighings are all carried out within 10⁻⁶ kg (maximum contents of the feeding cell 100 cm³).

Setup and Measurements. The feed cell is connected to the pressure-control cell with valve V₄ closed. Pressure of nitrogen is applied under its piston. For a binary mixture, the pressure applied is much higher than the mixture bubble pressure.

The circuits and cells between valve V₄ and valve V₁ are evacuated using the vacuum pump, VP. Then valve V₅ is closed and valve V₄ slightly opened to introduce enough fluid under study to reach the equilibrium pressure, at the temperature of the regulated liquid bath, LB. Valve V₄ is then closed. The exact required equilibrium pressure is adjusted using the pressure-control gas in the PC. When temperatures measured through PP1 and PP2 are the same within experimental accuracy (see Calibrations) and the pressure is stable, the vibration period of the vibrating tube is recorded and the pressure is increased, through the pressure-control cell, to perform new measurements and so on for a

of being extended for measurements of vapor densities and dew and bubble points of mixtures.

List of Symbols

B	characteristic parameter of the vibrating tube (s^2); see eq 1
$B_0, A_0, C_0, D_0, E_0, b, a, d, c, u$	parameters for the BWRS equation of state (see Table 8)
K	characteristic parameter of the vibrating tube ($kg/m^3 \cdot s^2$); see eq 1
P	pressure (MPa)
T	temperature (K)
V_m	molar volume (m^3/mol)
v	specific volume (m^3/kg)
z	mole fraction
<i>Greek Letters</i>	
δ	uncertainty
ρ	density (kg/m^3)
τ	period (s)
<i>Subscripts</i>	
calcd	calculated value
exptl	experimental value
i	compound i

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