Local Compositions in Thermodynamic Excess Functions for Liquid Mixtures

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A critical discussion is given of the use of local compositions for representation of excess Gibbs energies of liquid mixtures. A new equation is derived, based on Scott's two-liquid model and on an assumption of nonrandomness similar to that used by Wilson. For the same activity coefficients at infinite dilution, the Gibbs energy of mixing is calculated with the Wilson equation. Wilson obtained an expression for the excess Gibbs energy by analogy with the Flory-Huggins expression for athermal mixtures, where he replaces overall volume fractions by local volume fractions.

\[ g^e/RT = x_1 \ln (\xi_{11}/x_1) + x_2 \ln (\xi_{22}/x_2) \]  

(2)

where the local volume fractions \( \xi_{11} \) and \( \xi_{22} \) are derived from Equation (1):

\[ \xi_{11} = \frac{x_1}{x_1 + x_2 (v_2/v_1) \exp \left(-\frac{g_{21} - g_{11}}{RT}\right)} \]

(3)

and

\[ \xi_{22} = \frac{x_2}{x_2 + x_1 (v_1/v_2) \exp \left(-\frac{g_{22} - g_{22}}{RT}\right)} \]

(4)

In these equations the \( v \)'s are the molar volumes.

Heil (7) pursued the original analogy further and proposed an expression for the excess Gibbs energy similar to the Flory-Huggins equation for nonathermal mixtures. The Heil equation was derived for polymer solutions; it has the following form for solutions of small molecules:

\[ g^e/RT = x_1 \ln (\xi_{11}/x_1) + x_2 \ln (\xi_{22}/x_2) \]

\[ + \frac{g_{21} - g_{11}}{RT} x_1 \xi_{21} + \frac{g_{12} - g_{22}}{RT} x_2 \xi_{12} \]

(5)

where \( \xi_{21} = 1 - \xi_{11} \) and \( \xi_{12} = 1 - \xi_{22} \).

Both Equations (2) and (5) are useful, semiempirical relations for thermodynamic excess functions; both equations contain only two adjustable parameters per binary, \( g_{21} \) and \( g_{12} \), and both are readily generalized to solutions containing any number of components.

However, the derivations of both equations contain two essentially arbitrary steps: the relation between the local mole fractions, Equation (1), and the introduction of local compositions into the Flory-Huggins equation. A somewhat more satisfactory way to define and use local compositions is shown below. We shall return later to the Wilson and Heil equations.

THE WILSON AND HEIL EQUATIONS

To take into account nonrandomness in liquid mixtures, Wilson (24) suggested a relation between local mole fraction \( x_{11} \) of molecules 1 and local mole fraction \( x_{21} \) of molecules 2 which are in the immediate neighborhood of molecule 1:

\[ \frac{x_{21}}{x_{11}} = \frac{x_2}{x_1} \exp \left(-\frac{g_{21}}{RT}\right) \]

(1)

where \( g_{21} \) and \( g_{12} \) are, respectively, energies of interaction between a 1-2 and 1-1 pair of molecules (\( g_{12} = g_{21} \)). The overall mole fractions in the mixture are \( x_1 \) and \( x_2 \).

The overall mole fractions in the mixture are \( x_1 \) and \( x_2 \).
(6). To obtain an expression for the excess Gibbs energy, we use Scott’s two-liquid theory of binary mixtures.

To take into account nonrandomness of mixing, we assume that the relation between the local mole fractions \( x_{21} \) and \( x_{11} \) is given by a modification of Equation (1):

\[
x_{21} = \frac{x_2}{x_1} \exp \left( -\frac{\alpha_{12} g_{12}}{RT} \right)
\]

(6)

where \( \alpha_{12} \) is a constant characteristic of the nonrandomness of the mixture. Interchanging subscripts 1 and 2, we also have

\[
x_{12} = \frac{x_1}{x_2} \exp \left( -\frac{\alpha_{12} g_{21}}{RT} \right)
\]

(7)

The local mole fractions are related by

\[
x_{21} + x_{11} = 1
\]

(8)

\[
x_{12} + x_{22} = 1
\]

(9)

To show the similarity of our assumption with that of the quasichemical theory, we take the product of Equations (6) and (7) (noting that \( g_{12} = g_{21} \)) and obtain

\[
\frac{x_{21} x_{12}}{x_1 x_2} = \exp \left( -\frac{\alpha_{12} (2g_{12} - g_{21} - g_{22})}{RT} \right)
\]

(10)

Equations (8) and (9), substituted into Equation (10), yield

\[
x_{21} x_{12} = (1 - x_{21})(1 - x_{12}) \exp \left( -\frac{\alpha_{12} (2g_{12} - g_{21} - g_{22})}{RT} \right)
\]

(11)

On the other hand, the assumption of nonrandomness in the quasichemical theory of Guggenheim (6) can be written as

\[
x_{21} x_{12} = (1 - x_{21})(1 - x_{12}) \exp \left( -\frac{1}{z} (2W_{12} - W_{11} - W_{22}) \right)
\]

(12)

where \( z \) is the coordination number of the lattice and \( W_{12}, W_{11}, W_{22} \) are, respectively, the molar potential energies of interaction of 1-2, 1-1, and 2-2 pairs.

Comparison of Equations (11) and (12) shows the similarity between the two assumptions; \( \alpha_{12} \) is the substitute for \( 1/z \). However, the energies \( g_{ij} \) in Equation (11) are Gibbs energies, whereas the energies \( W_{ij} \) in Equation (12) are potential energies.

As discussed by Guggenheim, the quasichemical theory underestimates the effect of nonrandomness in solutions. Since \( z \) is of the order 6-12, we expect that \( \alpha_{12} \) is a positive constant of the order 0.1 or 0.3. Although the similarity between Equations (11) and (12) suggests a theoretical basis for our assumption [Equations (6) and (7)], it is, however, different from Guggenheim’s assumption because we do not use a lattice model, and we consider \( \alpha_{12} \) as an empirical constant, independent of temperature. The physical significance of \( \alpha_{12} \) becomes obscure when \( \alpha_{12} \) exceeds (approximately) 0.3. Empirically, we find values of \( \alpha_{12} \) larger than 0.3 for some mixtures, especially for associated mixtures for which Guggenheim’s theory is not applicable.

*Equation (4.09.1) in reference 6, p. 38, is:

\[
X_2 = (N_1 - x)(x_1 - x) \exp \left( -\frac{2\mu_2}{zRT} \right)
\]

(12.1)

where \( N_1, N_2 \) are the number of molecules 1 and 2 in the solution, \( (x_1) \) the number of 1-2 interactions, \( \mu_2 \) the intermolecular interaction energy defined by \( -\mu_2 = (2\mu_{12} - \mu_1 - \mu_2) \). where, in turn, \( \mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_{12} \) are the potential energies for interactions 1-1, 1-2, and 2-2 on the lattice. The term \( \mu_{12} \) is the energy of interaction of a molecule 1 with all its neighbors in pure liquid 1. Equation (12) is obtained by dividing both sides of Equation (12.1) by \( N_1 N_2 \) and introducing molar quantities in the exponential.
The activity coefficients for the NRTL equation are found by differentiation of Equation (20) they are

\[
\ln \gamma_i = x_i^2 \left( \frac{\tau_{21} \exp(-2\alpha_{12}x_1)}{x_1 + x_2 \exp(-\alpha_{12}x_2)} + \frac{\tau_{12} \exp(-\alpha_{12}x_2)}{x_2 + x_1 \exp(-\alpha_{12}x_1)} \right) \tag{21}
\]

\[
\ln \gamma_2 = x_1^2 \left( \frac{\tau_{12} \exp(-2\alpha_{12}x_2)}{x_2 + x_1 \exp(-\alpha_{12}x_1)} + \frac{\tau_{21} \exp(-\alpha_{12}x_1)}{x_1 + x_2 \exp(-\alpha_{12}x_2)} \right) \tag{22}
\]

where

\[
\tau_{12} = \frac{(g_{12} - g_{21})}{RT} \tag{23}
\]

\[
\tau_{21} = \frac{(g_{21} - g_{11})}{RT} \tag{24}
\]

with \(g_{12} = g_{21}\).

**GENERAL FUNDAMENTAL EQUATION**

For comparison, it is convenient to generalize the Wilson, Heil, and NRTL equations. To simplify the notation, let

\[
G_{12} = \rho_{12} \exp(-\alpha_{12}) \tag{25}
\]

\[
G_{21} = \rho_{21} \exp(-\alpha_{21}) \tag{26}
\]

The generalized expression for the excess Gibbs energy of a binary mixture is

\[
\frac{g^E}{RT} = -q \left[ x_1 \ln \left( x_1 + x_2 G_{21} \right) + x_2 \ln \left( x_2 + x_1 G_{12} \right) \right] \\
+ p x_1 x_2 \left[ \frac{\tau_{21} G_{21}}{x_1 + x_2 G_{21}} + \frac{\tau_{12} G_{12}}{x_2 + x_1 G_{12}} \right] \tag{27}
\]

The Wilson, Heil, and NRTL equations follow from Equation (27) by substituting for \(p, q, \rho_{12}\) and \(\alpha_{12}\) the values indicated in Table 1, taking \(i = 1\) and \(j = 2\).

The adjustable parameters are \((g_{12} - g_{21})\) and \((g_{21} - g_{11})\). We may consider \(\alpha_{12}\) as a third adjustable parameter or, as discussed later, set it at a predetermined value. For the Wilson equation, independent specification of liquid molar volumes is not strictly necessary since \(G_{12}\) and \(G_{21}\) can be taken as adjustable temperature-dependent parameters.

We now indicate some properties of Equation (27). The activity coefficients are found by appropriate differentiation; they are

\[
\ln \gamma_1 = q \left[ \frac{x_2 G_{21}}{x_1 + x_2 G_{21}} - \frac{x_2 G_{12}}{x_2 + x_1 G_{12}} - \ln \left( x_1 + x_2 G_{21} \right) \right] \\
+ p x_1 x_2 \left[ \frac{\tau_{21} G_{21}}{(x_1 + x_2 G_{21})^2} + \frac{\tau_{12} G_{12}}{(x_2 + x_1 G_{12})^2} \right] \tag{28}
\]

\[
\ln \gamma_2 = q \left[ \frac{x_1 G_{12}}{x_2 + x_1 G_{12}} - \frac{x_1 G_{21}}{x_1 + x_2 G_{21}} - \ln \left( x_2 + x_1 G_{12} \right) \right] \\
+ p x_1 x_2 \left[ \frac{\tau_{12} G_{12}}{(x_2 + x_1 G_{12})^2} + \frac{\tau_{21} G_{21}}{(x_1 + x_2 G_{21})^2} \right] \tag{29}
\]

where \(\tau_{12}, \tau_{21}, G_{12},\) and \(G_{21}\) are given, respectively, in Equations (23), (24), (25), and (26).

A condition for phase instability is that for \(\Delta g^M\), the molar Gibbs energy of mixing

\[
\left( \frac{\partial^2 \Delta g^M}{\partial x_1^2} \right)_{T_P} = 0 \tag{30}
\]

for at least one value of \(x_1\) in the interval zero to one. Substituting Equation (25) into Equation (30), we obtain

**SYMMETRIC SYSTEMS**

We call those binary systems symmetric for which the excess Gibbs energy is not changed if we change \(x_1\) to \((1 - x_1)\). We also assume that \(v_1 = v_2\). The condition for symmetry in the local composition equations is the equality of the parameters \(\alpha_{12} = \alpha_{21}\), and we note

\[
\tau_{12} = \tau_{21} = \tau \tag{32}
\]

We write the van Laar equation in the form

\[
\frac{g^E}{RT} = \frac{2AB x_1 y_2}{A x_1 + B x_2} \tag{33}
\]

where \(A\) and \(B\) are temperature-dependent parameters. For a symmetric system \(A = B\), Equation (33) is then identical with the two-suffix Margules and Redlich-Kister equations.

For the NRTL equation, we need to specify the constant \(a_{12}\). In our comparison, we consider two values of \(a_{12}\), namely, 0.50 and 0.25; the two corresponding equations are designated, respectively, by NRTL (0.50) and NRTL (0.25).

We define the parameter \(a\) as follows:

\[
a = A \quad \text{for the van Laar equation} \]
\[
a = 2\tau \quad \text{for Heil’s equation} \]
\[
a = \tau \quad \text{for Wilson’s equation and the NRTL equation} \]

All these equations become asymptotically equivalent for small values of the parameter \(a\). In each case, the first term in the power series expansion of \(g^E/RT\) in terms of \(a\) is \(2ax_1y_2\).

Figure 2 presents a comparison of the four symmetric equations. In all four equations, the parameters \(a\) are selected such that, for each one, at infinite dilution

\[
\gamma_1 = \gamma_2 = 11.0
\]
The slopes for \( x = 0 \) and \( x = 1 \) are the same for all equations but, as is evident in the central part of the diagram, the excess Gibbs energy decreases in the order: van Laar, NRTL (0.25), Heil, Wilson, NRTL (0.50); in the same order, the curves become more and more flat near the maximum. An important consequence of this tendency is seen in the lower art of Figure 2, where the Gibbs energy of mixing is presented a maximum and two cry of mixing is own. For the van Laar, NRTL (0.25) minima; this indicates t iM at phase splitting occurs. The mutual solubilities are small in the case of the van Laar equation and become larger with the NRTL (0.25) and Heil equations. However, the Wilson and NRTL (0.50) equations do not show phase instability. Although all five equations give the same activity coefficients at infinite dilution, three of them predict the existence of two liquid phases and two of them do not.

Figure 2 indicates a very important property of the local composition equations. Compared with the van Laar equation, and for the same nonideality at infinite dilution, the local composition equations have lower maxima of the excess Gibbs energy, thereby reducing the tendency toward immiscibility.

Figure 3 shows how the change of curvature of the excess Gibbs energy is related to the degree of nonideality of the mixture. To characterize the nonideality, we plot on the abscissa the logarithm of the activity coefficient at infinite dilution, while on the ordinate we plot the logarithm of the activity coefficient for either component in an equimolar mixture. A decrease of the activity coefficient in an equimolar mixture corresponds to a flatter excess Gibbs energy curve in Figure 2. The general trend shown in Figure 2 remains; the equations give flatter curves in the order: van Laar, NRTL (0.25), Heil, Wilson, and NRTL (0.50). This effect is not significant for nearly ideal solutions but it becomes appreciable when \( \ln \gamma^* = 1.4 \) and it becomes increasingly important as the degree of nonideality rises. When the activity coefficient at infinite dilution becomes very large, the activity coefficient in an equimolar mixture increases linearly with \( \ln \gamma^* \) in the van Laar equation, reaches a maximum in the Heil and NRTL equations and an asymptotic limit in the Wilson equation.

In Figure 3 unstable liquid phases at equimolar concentration are indicated by dashed lines. The minimum activity coefficient at infinite dilution required for phase instability is lowest in the van Laar equation (\( \ln \gamma^* = 2 \)) followed by the Heil equation (\( \ln \gamma^* = 2.18 \)); it is variable in the case of the NRTL equation, increasing from \( \ln \gamma^* = 2 \) when \( \alpha_{12} = 0 \) to \( \ln \gamma^* = 2.94 \) when \( \alpha_{12} = 0.426 \). For \( \alpha_{12} > 0.426 \) phase instability does not occur at all.

The activity coefficient at infinite dilution is a monotonic, increasing function of \( \alpha \) for all the equations considered here; therefore the parameter \( \alpha \) is also a measure of the degree of nonideality of the mixture. Figure 4 shows the variation with \( \alpha \) of the activity coefficient of an equimolar mixture, indicating also the minimum value of \( \alpha \) which is required for phase splitting. In Figure 4 the
relative position of the curves representing the NRTL equation for different values of \( \alpha_{12} \) illustrates the effect of nonrandomness. For the same value of \( \alpha \), the lower excess Gibbs energy for equimolar mixtures if \( \alpha_{12} \) is larger, is due only to the reduction of the number of 1-2 interactions caused by the reduction of nonrandomness. According to the position of their curves in Figure 4, we can say that nonrandomness is taken into account more seriously by Wilson’s equation than by Heil’s equation.

**NONSYMMETRIC SYSTEMS**

For the NRTL equation, unsymmetric systems are those where \( \tau_{12} \) is different from \( \tau_{21} \), and for the Wilson equation unsymmetric behavior results when \( G_{12} \) is different from \( G_{21} \). For the Heil equation, lack of symmetry can be caused either by different molar volumes or by unequal \( \tau_{12} \) and \( \tau_{21} \). For the van Laar equation, unsymmetric systems are those where \( A \) is different from \( B \). All equations can satisfactorily represent unsymmetric systems; however, the van Laar equation cannot represent systems where the logarithms of the activity coefficients at infinite dilution have different signs. As for symmetric systems, the four equations are not equivalent for unsymmetric systems even when these equations are normalized such that for each component \( i \), \( \gamma_i^\infty \) is the same for each equation.

Turning again to the NRTL equation, the activity coefficient at infinite dilution \( \gamma_i^\infty \) depends primarily on \( \tau_{12} \), while \( \gamma_i^e \) depends primarily on \( \tau_{21} \). For \( \gamma_i^e > \gamma_i^\infty \), it is necessary that \( \tau_{12} > \tau_{21} \) and vice versa. Therefore we can say that the lack of symmetry of a system (more precisely, the skewness of the Gibbs energy curve) is related to the difference between \( \tau_{12} \) and \( \tau_{21} \), while, for moderately unsymmetric systems, the degree of nonideality is related mainly to their sum. The flatness of the Gibbs energy curve is related to \( \alpha_{12} \).

**REPRESENTATION OF BINARY VAPOR-LIQUID DATA**

We now turn to a comparison of calculated results with experimental data and we first consider binary mixtures. The most strongly nonideal mixtures provide the best test because the equations then differ most.

Vapor-liquid data at low pressure for selected systems were fitted with each of the equations to show their relative advantages. Vapor-phase nonideality corrections were calculated from an empirical correlation for the second virial coefficient (10). In all calculations the saturation pressures of the pure components were those reported in the articles from which the data are taken; they are given elsewhere, together with the value of the parameters (16, Appendix G). To obtain the parameters, a nonlinear least-squares fitting program was used which minimizes the sum-of-squares of relative deviation in pressure plus the sum-of-squares of deviations in vapor phase mole fraction (whenever available) for all data points. The calculation method used is similar to the one suggested by Prausnitz et al. (19).

Since deviations come from both the scatter of the data and from the inadequacy of the equation, they cannot provide directly a measure of the adequacy of the equation. Only a comparison of the deviations obtained from different equations with the same set of data gives an indication of relative adequacy of different equations.

We call \( \delta \) the root-mean-square deviation of experimental from calculated vapor phase mole fractions, and \( \delta_P \) the root-mean-square relative deviation of calculated from experimental pressures. We have calculated \( \delta \) and \( \delta_P \) for a large number of isothermal vapor-liquid data and some isobaric data; the detailed results (16, Appendix G) are summarized in Table 2, where we have grouped the systems in the categories described below.

Type I includes those systems where deviations from ideality are not large, although they may be positive or negative.

\[
|g^\infty| (\text{maximum}) < 0.35 \, RT
\]

Most of the currently available vapor-liquid data fall in this category. We distinguish three subtypes:

- **Type Ia** includes most mixtures of nonpolar substances such as hydrocarbons and carbon tetrachloride, but mixtures of fluorocarbons and paraffins are excluded.
- **Type Ib** includes some mixtures of nonpolar and polar nonassociated liquids, for example, n-heptane-methylethylketone, benzene-acetone, and carbon tetrachloride-nitroethane.
- **Type Ic** includes some mixtures of polar liquids: some with negative excess Gibbs energy, for example, acetone-chloroform and chloroform-dioxane, and some with positive, but not large, excess Gibbs energy, for example, acetone-methyl acetate and ethanol-water.

The comparison indicates that all the equations are equally good for these systems. For the NRTL equation, the root-mean-square deviations are not affected by the value selected for \( \alpha_{12} \) in the range 0.2 to 0.5; vapor-liquid data are usually not precise enough to indicate the nonrandomness of mixtures of this type because the effect of nonrandomness on the shape of the excess Gibbs energy curve is not strong. We recommend \( \alpha_{12} = 0.30 \).

Type II includes mixtures of saturated hydrocarbons with polar nonassociated liquids, as, for instance, n-hexane-acetone or isooctane-nitroethane. Phase splitting occurs at a relatively low degree of nonideality and the nonrandomness, as measured by \( \alpha_{12} \), is small. Values of \( \delta \) and \( \delta_P \) for nine mixtures, given in Table 2, show that

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>van Laar</th>
<th>Heil</th>
<th>Wilson</th>
<th>NRTL</th>
<th>van Laar</th>
<th>Heil</th>
<th>Wilson</th>
<th>NRTL</th>
<th>( \alpha_{12} )</th>
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both the NRTL (0.20) and the van Laar equations give a good representation of these data; Heil’s equation is also quite good, but Wilson’s equation is only fair. To fit these data we recommend \( a_{12} = 0.20 \).

Type III includes mixtures of saturated hydrocarbons and the homolog perfluorocarbons such as \( n \)-hexane-perfluoro-\( n \)-hexane. Table 2 shows that the Heil and NRTL (0.40) equations give the best representation of the data. We recommend \( a_{12} = 0.40 \).

Type IV includes mixtures of a strongly self-associated substance, such as an alcohol with a nonpolar substance, like a hydrocarbon or carbon tetrachloride. The excess Gibbs energy curve presents a flat shape near its maximum, and phase splitting occurs only if the activity coefficients are very large. Values of \( b \Sigma \) and \( \Sigma P \) for thirteen mixtures of this type show that Wilson’s equation gives a very good fit but the Heil and van Laar equations do not. These systems present a high degree of randomness and are best represented by high values of \( a_{12} \) in the NRTL equation; the fitting is very sensitive to the value of \( a_{12} \) and it is best to use \( a_{12} \) as an adjustable parameter. The optimum values of \( a_{12} \) are between 0.40 and 0.55. However, in Table 2 we have selected a common value of \( a_{12} \) for all systems of this type in order to reduce the number of fitting parameters to two. When experimental data are insufficient to justify three parameters, we recommend \( a_{12} = 0.47 \) for fitting this type of mixture.*

Suitable data for strongly nonideal systems, besides the types already considered, are scarce. However, we tentatively identify three more types:

Type V is represented by two systems of polar substances (acetonitrile and nitromethane) with carbon tetrachloride which present a high degree of randomness and are best fitted by the NRTL (0.47) equation and the Wilson equation. We recommend \( a_{12} = 0.47 \).

Type VI is represented by two systems of water plus a polar, nonassociated substance (acetone and dioxane): they are best represented by the van Laar and the NRTL (0.30) equations. We recommend \( a_{12} = 0.30 \).

Type VII is represented by two systems of water plus a polar self-associated substance (butyl-glycol and pyridine); they present a high degree of nonrandomness and we recommend \( a_{12} = 0.47 \).

We can draw the following conclusions about representation of binary vapor-liquid equilibria.

The Wilson equation is especially suitable for alcohol-hydrocarbon systems, but it can never predict phase splitting. The Heil equation can predict phase splitting but provides only a small improvement over the van Laar equation.

The NRTL equation gives the best fit for all types of mixtures by proper selection of the constant \( a_{12} \), taking into account only the nature of the binary system. It is the simplest of the local composition equations (it contains no logarithmic term in the expression of \( g^e \)) and has perhaps the best semitheoretical basis. When justified by the data, it can be used as a three-parameter equation for highly non-ideal systems, but it can also be used as a two-parameter equation by using for \( a_{12} \) the values recommended and listed in Table 2.

**PROBABLE ERROR AND TEMPERATURE DEPENDENCE OF PARAMETERS**

As determined from vapor-liquid data and shown elsewhere (16), the probable error in the parameters of the Heil equation is such that, for good data, the error on the sum of the parameters \( S = (g_{12} - g_{21}) + (g_{21} - g_{11}) \) is of the order of 10 cal./mole and the error in the difference between the parameters \( D = (g_{12} - g_{22}) - (g_{21} - g_{11}) \) is of the order of 50 cal./mole. The orders of the errors in \( S \) and \( D \) are, respectively, 20 and 100 cal./mole for the parameters of the Wilson and NRTL equations.

With the assumption that Heil’s parameters from reduction of vapor-liquid data are independent of temperature, calculated and experimental enthalpies agree only qualitatively. Therefore the parameters are temperature dependent. Fortunately, however, they are only weak functions of temperature, and, in many cases, isobaric data can be used to obtain useful, temperature-averaged parameters. These conclusions, discussed in more detail elsewhere (16), also hold for the Wilson and NRTL equations.

**LIQUID-LIQUID EQUILIBRIA**

While the Wilson equation is not applicable to liquid-liquid systems, the Heil and the NRTL equations (\( a_{12} < 0.426 \)) can be used to represent thermodynamic properties of binary mixtures with two liquid phases. It is possible to calculate the parameters from experimental compositions of the two equilibrated liquid phases.

Parameters for the Heil and for the NRTL (0.20) equations were determined over a large range of temperature up to the critical solution temperature for twelve liquid-liquid systems containing a polar substance and a hydrocarbon (they are given in reference 16); in all cases, the temperature dependence of the parameters is linear and the parameters are consistent with parameters derived from vapor-liquid data. Therefore, for this type of mixture, it is possible to predict vapor-liquid equilibria by linear extrapolation with temperature of the parameters obtained from liquid-liquid data at lower temperature. Figure 5 shows the variation of the parameters with

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* As Wilson’s, the NRTL (0.47) equation does not allow phase splitting, but it offers generally a good representation of vapor-liquid data of Type IV mixtures in the miscible regions.
TABLE 3. COMPARISON OF PREDICTION OF TERNARY VAPOR-LIQUID EQUILIBRIA WITH EQUATIONS USING TWO PARAMETERS PER BINARY SYSTEM AND NO TERNARY CONSTANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>Temp., °C or pressure, mm. Hg</th>
<th>No. of data points</th>
<th>Mean arithmetic deviation in vapor mole fraction $y$ for individual component $\times 10^3$</th>
<th>95% Confidence limit in vapor mole fraction $\times 10^3$</th>
<th>Mean relative deviation in pressure $\times 10^3$</th>
<th>95% Confidence limit in relative pressure $\times 10^3$</th>
<th>Ref.</th>
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<td>33 20</td>
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<td>9 4 3 9</td>
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<td>6 2 11 0</td>
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<td>16 23 21 23</td>
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<td>12 13 12 12</td>
<td>12 13 12 12</td>
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<td></td>
<td>-1 -3 -1 -1</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* $a_{ij}$ is selected for each binary mixture according to the values given in Table 3.

The temperature range extends from below to above the critical solution temperature. The probable errors in the parameters are indicated by the vertical lines in Figure 5. For liquid-liquid data this error is smaller than for vapor-liquid data. It is of the order of 10 cal./mole for Heil's parameters and 20 cal./mole for parameters in the Wilson and NRTL equations. The temperature dependence of the parameters cannot be neglected in this case. Within experimental error, however, the parameters derived from vapor-liquid data are consistent with those derived from liquid-liquid data.

GENERALIZATION OF THE EQUATIONS TO MULTICOMPONENT SYSTEMS

The equations for binary solutions, presented earlier, are readily generalized to solutions containing any number of components. The generalization requires no additional assumption; all the local composition equations considered here take into account only two-body interactions and therefore the assumptions needed for 3, 4, ... component solutions are the same as those for binary solutions.

For a multicomponent solution, let $x_{ij}$ stand for the local mole fraction of molecule $j$ and let $x_{ki}$ stand for the local mole fraction of molecule $k$ in the immediate neighborhood...
For a multicomponent solution, the excess Gibbs energy is
\[
P^E = q \sum_{i=1}^{N} x_i \ln \left( \sum_{j=1}^{N} G_{ij} x_j \right) + p \sum_{i=1}^{N} x_i \sum_{k=1}^{N} G_{ik} x_k
\]
where \( N \) is the number of components in the system and
\[
\tau_{ij} = \frac{G_{ij}}{RT} = \frac{\rho_i \exp(-\alpha_{ij} / RT)}{\rho_j \exp(-\alpha_{ji} / RT)}
\]
(35)

We obtain the Wilson, Heil, and the NRTL equations for multicomponent solutions by giving the values listed in Table 1 to \( p, q, \rho_i \), and \( \alpha_{ij} \).

The activity coefficient is obtained by appropriate differentiation of Equation (35):
\[
\ln \gamma_i = q \left( 1 - \ln \sum_{j=1}^{N} x_j G_{ij} - \sum_{j=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{k=1} \frac{x_j G_{ij}}{G_{ik} x_k} \right)
\]
+ \[
\sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{\tau_{ij} G_{ij} x_j}{G_{ik} x_k} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{x_j G_{ij}}{G_{ik} x_k} \left( \tau_{ij} - \frac{\tau_{ij} G_{ij}}{G_{ik} x_k} \right)
\]
(38)

### Prediction of Ternary Vapor-Liquid Equilibria

With the local composition equations, prediction of the properties of multicomponent systems is possible without any additional ternary or higher order parameters. For the NRTL equation, the excess Gibbs energy is derived from the two-liquid theory by taking into account only two-body interactions; there is no need to introduce higher-order interactions in the treatment of multicomponent systems when they were neglected for binary mixtures.

Table 3 presents a comparison of experimental vapor-phase mole fractions and total pressures with calculated results using only two fitting parameters determined from each of the binary data. For the NRTL equation, the values of \( \alpha_{ij} \) are selected according to the rules given earlier.

We compare the mean arithmetic deviations in the vapor mole fractions (absolute) and total pressures (relative) for the three local composition equations. These quantities are a measure of the accuracy of the prediction of the ternary equilibria. We indicate also 95% confidence limits for the NRTL equation, as suggested recently by Adler et al. (1).

The results indicated in Table 3 lead to conclusions which parallel those reached from fitting binary systems. For systems of type I, where the deviations from ideality are not too large, all equations give similar results. In Table 3 systems belonging to this type are n-hexane-cyclohexane-benzene, n-hexane-hexene-1-dioxane, n-heptane-toluene-methylketone, acetone-chloroform-methanol, and acetone-methanol-methylacetate.

For type II systems, which have immiscible regions, the Heil equation and the NRTL equation are better than the Wilson equation. In Table 3 systems belonging to this type are n-octane-isooctane-nitroethane and ethanol-ethylacetate-water.

For systems of type IV, mixtures of alcohols and non-polar liquids, the Wilson and NRTL equations give the best predictions. In Table 3 systems of this type are n-heptane-benzene-ethanol, n-heptane-toluene-methanol, and benzene-carbon tetrachloride-methanol.

From these results we conclude that the NRTL equation is a good and general equation for prediction of ternary vapor-liquid equilibria using only data for binary mixtures; a suitable value of \( \alpha_{ij} \) can be selected independently for each binary system.

Table 4 shows a comparison of the NRTL equation with the Wohl equation. The results for the Wohl equation are taken from Adler et al. (1). These authors use a three-parameter Wohl equation of the Margules type for fitting the binary data. When they use the best ternary constant to fit the experimental ternary data, they obtain the results listed in Table 4. (They show that it is also possible to use the same value of the ternary constant for all these systems.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>N-Heptane</th>
<th>Toluene</th>
<th>Methyl-ethyl ketone</th>
<th>n-Heptane</th>
<th>Benzene</th>
<th>Ethanol</th>
<th>System</th>
<th>N-Heptane</th>
<th>Toluene</th>
<th>Methanol</th>
<th>Benzene</th>
<th>Carbon tetrachloride</th>
<th>Methanol 35°C</th>
<th>Methanol 55°C</th>
<th>Acetone</th>
<th>Chloroform</th>
<th>Methanol</th>
<th>Acetone</th>
<th>Methyl acetate</th>
<th>Ethanol</th>
<th>Ethyl acetate</th>
<th>Water</th>
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<td>-3</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|        | 7         | 7       | 7                 | 7         | 7       | 7       |        | 7         | 4       | 7       | 7      | 4                  | 7           | 7           | 7       | 7         | 7       | 7       | 7           | 7       | 7          | 7      |

Table 4. Comparison of NRTL and Wohl Equations for Prediction of Ternary Vapor-Liquid Equilibria
systems usually with a small loss of accuracy in the predictions.) For the NRTL equation only two fitting parameters are used for the binaries and no ternary constant is introduced. As shown in Table 4, both the mean arithmetic deviations and the confidence limits are better for the NRTL equation than for the Wohl equation even with optimized ternary constants.

LIQUID-LIQUID TERNARY EQUILIBRIA

Using the Heil equation, we can predict ternary liquid-liquid equilibria (solubility curve and tie lines) from binary data (vapor-liquid or liquid-liquid) in a limited number of cases. Good prediction is obtained when mutual solubilities are not too small (> 5% mole fraction). Plait points are predicted within about 10% mole fraction. Because of the maximum indicated in Figure 3, the Heil equation (for monomeric systems) does not apply when two components of strongly nonideal mixtures have very small mutual solubilities (for example, water and hydrocarbons).

The NRTL equation, on the contrary, is generally applicable. It is possible to predict liquid-liquid ternary equilibria from binary data if the best value of \( a_{12} \) for each binary is chosen. If binary vapor-liquid data are used, the resulting prediction depends on the quality of the data and on the right selection of \( a_{12} \). Generally, the precision of the parameters obtained from vapor-liquid equilibria is not sufficient to predict accurately the tie lines, because, as we have seen, the error in the difference of the parameters is large. Liquid-liquid data are much more sensitive to the values of the parameters (and especially to the difference between the parameters) than are vapor-liquid data. Therefore the use of tie-line data to calculate some binary parameters is preferable because the precision is better; also experimental determination is easier. Whenever possible, parameters obtained from reliable mutual solubilities are preferred for the prediction of multicomponent phase equilibria. Liquid-liquid ternary results are also rather sensitive to the value of \( a_{12} \) chosen for the most nonideal binaries.

Figure 6 to 8 illustrate typical agreement between experimental data (12, 8, 15) and results calculated with the NRTL equation and, when applicable, with the Heil equation. In all cases, \( a_{12} \) is selected according to the rules given above. The solubility curve and the tie lines are calculated with the use of binary parameters only.

CONCLUSION

Two major conclusions result from our comparison of the local composition equations for the representation of the excess Gibbs energy of liquid mixtures.

Considering, at first, binary mixtures, it appears that binary data for many different types of mixtures cannot be represented with the same two-parameter equation. Even if the activity coefficients at infinite dilution are the same for two different mixtures, it does not follow that the activity coefficients at other concentrations are even approximately the same if the mixtures belong to different types. A very sensitive test of mixture type is provided by
the existence or nonexistence of immiscibility for a given level of nonideality of the dilute solutions. In order to obtain a satisfactory representation of the properties of binary liquid mixtures, many authors have proposed empirical or semiempirical equations with three or more adjustable parameters; for example, Wohl [25], Redlich-Kister [13], and Black [3] have given expressions with three (or more) adjustable parameters to provide a classification of liquid mixtures. However, the precision of the experimental data frequently does not justify the use of three (or more) adjustable parameters to provide a classification based on three-parameter equations for binary systems. The NRTL equation uses only two adjustable parameters but it contains a third constant, selected according to the chemical characteristics of the components of the mixture, to provide the flexibility required for representing the shape of the excess Gibbs energy.

Turning to multicomponent mixtures, it is desirable to be able to predict the excess Gibbs energy from binary data alone. This should be possible if, as is probable, two-body interactions make the largest contribution to the excess properties. However, previously recommended expressions based on three-parameter equations for binary systems require either some ternary data or, additional simplifying assumptions. The new equation, based in a semiempirical way on the two-liquid theory of Scott, can be extended to the multicomponent case without introducing any additional assumptions; it appears to predict well ternary vapor-liquid and liquid-liquid equilibria without requiring a ternary constant.

The computation methods used in this work are outlined in Appendix K of reference 16 with a listing of computer programs to obtain the parameters in the NRTL equation for binary mixtures by fitting vapor-liquid data or by using mutual solubilities and to predict multicomponent vapor-liquid equilibria and ternary liquid-liquid equilibria without requiring a ternary constant.

\begin{itemize}
  \item [\( a \)] normalized parameter for symmetric systems
  \item [\( A, B \)] van Laar constants
  \item [\( D \)] difference between parameters; \( D = (g_{12} - g_{22}) - (g_{21} - g_{11}) \)
  \item [\( g \)] Gibbs energy per mole
  \item [\( g^{(1)} \)] Gibbs energy for a cell containing molecule 1
  \item [\( g_0 \)] energies of interaction between an \( ij \) pair of molecules
  \item [\( G_{ij} \)] coefficient as defined in Equation (37)
  \item [\( k \)] Boltzmann's constant
  \item [\( N \)] number of molecules
  \item [\( p \)] coefficient (0 or 1) as defined in Table 1
  \item [\( q \)] coefficient (0 or 1) as defined in Table 1
  \item [\( R \)] gas constant
  \item [\( S \)] sum of parameters; \( S = (g_{12} - g_{22}) + (g_{21} - g_{11}) \)
  \item [\( T \)] absolute temperature
  \item [\( v \)] molar volume
  \item [\( w \)] interchange energy
  \item [\( W_{12} \)] molar potential energy of interaction
  \item [\( x_i \)] overall mole fraction of substance \( i \)
  \item [\( x_{ij} \)] local mole fraction of molecule \( i \) in the immediate neighborhood of molecule \( j \)
  \item [\( X \)] number of \( ij \) interactions divided by \( z \)
  \item [\( y \)] vapor mole fraction
  \item [\( z \)] lattice coordination number
\end{itemize}

Greek Letters

\begin{itemize}
  \item [\( \alpha_{ij} \)] nonrandomness constant for binary \( ij \) interactions
  \item [\( \Delta G^M \)] Gibbs energy of mixing per mole
  \item [\( \gamma \)] activity coefficient
  \item [\( \delta \)] root-mean-square deviation between calculated and experimental property
  \item [\( \xi_{ij} \)] local volume fraction of molecule \( i \) in the immediate neighborhood of molecule \( j \)
  \item [\( \rho_{ij} \)] coefficient as defined in Table 1
  \item [\( \tau_{ij} \)] coefficient as defined in Equation (36)
  \item [\( \tau \)] normalized parameter for symmetric systems
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Superscripts}

\begin{itemize}
  \item [\( E \)] excess
  \item [\( \infty \)] infinite dilution
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Subscript}

\begin{itemize}
  \item [\( i \)] component \( i \)
\end{itemize}

\textbf{LITERATURE CITED}

16. Renon, Henri, Doctoral dissertation, Univ. California, Berkeley (1966). Appendix G has been deposited as document 9672 with the American Documentation Institute, Photoduplication Service, Library of Congress, Washington 25, D. C., and may be obtained for $2.50 for photocopies or $1.75 for 35-mm. microfilm.

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