

Simultaneous description of bulk and interfacial properties of fluids by the Mie potential

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The vapor-liquid equilibrium (VLE) of the Mie potential, where the dispersive exponent is constant ($m = 6$) while the repulsive exponent n is varied between 9 and 48, is systematically investigated by molecular simulation. For systems with planar vapor-liquid interfaces, long-range correction expressions are derived, so that interfacial and bulk properties can be computed accurately. The present simulation results are found to be consistent with the available body of literature on the Mie fluid which is substantially extended. On the basis of correlations for the considered thermodynamic properties, a multicriteria optimization becomes viable. Thereby, users can adjust the three parameters of the Mie potential to the properties of real fluids, weighting different thermodynamic properties according to their importance for a particular application scenario. In the present work, this is demonstrated for carbon dioxide for which different competing objective functions are studied which describe the accuracy of the model for representing the saturated liquid density, the vapor pressure and the surface tension. It is shown that models can be found which describe simultaneously the saturated liquid density and vapor pressure with good accuracy, and it is discussed to what extent this accuracy can be upheld as the model accuracy for the surface tension is further improved.

Keywords: Mie potential; surface tension; molecular simulation; long-range correction; carbon dioxide

1. Introduction

In process engineering, knowledge of the vapor-liquid equilibrium is crucial for process design. Molecular modelling and simulation based on force fields is a promising way of predicting these thermodynamic properties. However, it is a topic of controversial discussion to what extent effective pair potentials are capable of reproducing bulk and interfacial properties of real fluids at the same time [1–14]. The present work reports on bulk and interfacial properties of the Mie fluid and addresses the question of the simultaneous description of these properties by that model.

The Mie potential [15, 16] is a generalized version of the Lennard-Jones potential [17, 18] with variable exponents for the repulsive and dispersive interactions. The

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Lennard-Jones potential has a dispersive exponent of 6, which is physically motivated [19]. This exponent ($m = 6$) is used here throughout. It is, however, noted that also the exponent m has been varied in studies in the literature [7, 8, 20–22]. The repulsive exponent of the Lennard-Jones potential was originally set to $n = 12$ for numerical reasons rather than for physical reasons. Here, therefore, n is varied. Vapor-liquid equilibrium (VLE) data for the single-site Mie potential are available in the literature for many combinations of the repulsive and dispersive exponents [1, 2, 23–27]. Interfacial properties of the Mie potential were only reported so far by Orea et al. [2] and Galliero et al. [1].

While it is certain that due to the third parameter the Mie potential (with a fixed $m = 6$) must be better suited for correlations of experimental data than the two parameter Lennard-Jones potential, it is not self-evident how large the improvement in model accuracy can become.

There are several transferable force field parameter sets for the Mie potential in the literature, e.g. for n -alkanes [28, 29], perfluoroalkanes [28], alkenes [30], n -olefins [29], ethers [31]. For mixtures of n -alkanes with noble gases, Mick et al. [32] developed force fields based on the Mie potential. The above mentioned models [28–32] use a dispersive exponent $m = 6$. A repulsive exponent $n = 16$ is used for alkenes and alkanes [28, 30], $n = 14$ for olefins, alkanes and methane [28, 29], $n = 12$ for ether groups [31], and $36 \leq n \leq 44$ for perfluoroalkanes [28]. For mixed interactions, the arithmetic mean value is used for the exponents [28]. The parameters of these molecular models were adjusted to bulk properties of the VLE [28–33]. Moreover, Jackson and co-workers developed a large number of coarse grained models based on the Mie potential, e.g. for CO_2 [7], CF_4 , SF_6 , R1234yf, $n\text{-C}_{10}\text{H}_{22}$, $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{42}$ [8], benzene, n -decylbenzene [34] and water [22]. The parameterization was done indirectly, using the SAFT- γ -Mie [8, 20, 21] or SAFT-VR-Mie equation of state [35, 36].

In the present work, the single-site three-parameter Mie potential with $m = 6$ and $9 \leq n \leq 48$ is studied systematically: the saturated liquid density, the saturated vapor density, the vapor pressure, the enthalpy of vaporization and the surface tension are determined by molecular dynamics simulation of systems that contain a vapor phase and a liquid phase (and the interface between them) and correlated as a function of the model parameters. For this purpose, a long-range correction of the Mie potential is developed for inhomogeneous simulation volumes with planar symmetry. Correlation expressions are derived for the investigated thermodynamic properties of the three-parameter Mie potential. In a case study, these correlations are used for the parameterization of a Mie potential for carbon dioxide. Multi-criteria optimization is applied, taking into account several conflicting objective functions: the vapor pressure, the saturated liquid density, and the surface tension.

The work presented here for the Mie potential extends previous work of our group on other molecular model classes, namely the 2CLJQ [4, 6, 37–43] and the 2CLJD [3, 44–46] potential.

2. Simulations with the Mie potential

The Mie potential is given by [15, 16]

$$u(r) = \frac{n}{n-m} \left(\frac{n}{m}\right)^{\frac{m}{n-m}} \epsilon \left[\left(\frac{\sigma}{r}\right)^n - \left(\frac{\sigma}{r}\right)^m \right], \quad (1)$$

where σ and ϵ are the size and energy parameter, n and m are the repulsive and dispersive exponents and r represents the distance between two interaction sites.

For numerical reasons, the intermolecular pair potential in molecular simulation needs to be truncated. However, thermodynamic properties in heterogeneous systems are very sensitive to a truncation of the intermolecular potential [10, 11, 38, 47–56]. For the Lennard-Jones potential, a large variety of long-range corrections (LRC) exist for heterogeneous systems to account for the inhomogeneity, ranging from Ewald summation techniques [57–59], the Fast Multipole Method (FMM) [60] and Multilevel Summation (MLS) [61] to slab-based LRC techniques [62–64]. In terms of the thermodynamic results, the different methods deliver a similar degree of accuracy for Lennard-Jones systems [58, 61, 63, 64]. For the Mie potential, no LRC for heterogeneous systems exist, to the best of our knowledge. To overcome this problem, large cutoff radii are used in the literature (up to 35 Å [22] or 10 molecular segment diameters [1]). Not only the dispersive exponent has an influence on the magnitude of the long-range interactions, which is obvious, but also the repulsive exponent [1].

The LRC by Janeček [63] for single Lennard-Jones sites based on the density profile can be straightforwardly generalized to the Mie potential. The LRC for the potential energy is given by

$$U_i^{\text{LRC}} = \sum_k^{N_s} 2\pi\rho(y_k)\Delta y \int_{r'}^{\infty} dr \frac{n}{n-m} \left(\frac{n}{m}\right)^{\frac{m}{n-m}} \epsilon \left[\left(\frac{\sigma}{r}\right)^n - \left(\frac{\sigma}{r}\right)^m \right], \quad (2)$$

where $\rho(y_k)$ is the density in slab k , Δy is the thickness of a slab and N_s is the number of slabs. The lower bound for the integration r' is defined according to Siperstein et al. [65]: if the distance $\xi = |y_i - y_k|$ between a molecule i and the slab k is smaller than the cutoff radius, the cutoff radius is used, and ξ is used otherwise, i.e.

$$r' = \begin{cases} r_c, & \text{if } \xi < r_c \\ \xi, & \text{else.} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

From Eqs. (2) and (3), the following expressions for the contributions of the long-range correction to the potential energy U_i , the force F_i and the normal and tangential virial $\Pi_{N,i}, \Pi_{T,i}$ can be derived,

$$\begin{aligned} U_i^{\text{LRC}} &= \sum_k^{N_s} 2\pi\rho(y_k)\Delta y \int_{r'}^{\infty} dr \frac{n}{n-m} \left(\frac{n}{m}\right)^{\frac{m}{n-m}} \epsilon \left[\left(\frac{\sigma}{r}\right)^n - \left(\frac{\sigma}{r}\right)^m \right] r \\ &= \sum_k^{N_s} 2\pi\rho(y_k)\Delta y \frac{n}{n-m} \left(\frac{n}{m}\right)^{\frac{m}{n-m}} \epsilon \sigma^2 \left[\frac{1}{n-2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{r'}\right)^{n-2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{m-2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{r'}\right)^{m-2} \right], \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
F_i^{\text{LRC}} &= - \sum_k^{N_s} 2\pi\rho(y_k)\Delta y \int_{r'}^{\infty} dr \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \frac{\xi}{r} \\
&= - \sum_k^{N_s} 2\pi\rho(y_k)\Delta y \xi \frac{n}{n-m} \left(\frac{n}{m}\right)^{\frac{m}{n-m}} \epsilon \left[\left(\frac{\sigma}{r'}\right)^n - \left(\frac{\sigma}{r'}\right)^m \right], \quad (5)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\Pi_{\text{N},i}^{\text{LRC}} &= \sum_k^{N_s} \pi\rho(y_k)\Delta y \int_{r'}^{\infty} dr \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \frac{\xi^2}{r} \\
&= \sum_k^{N_s} \pi\rho(y_k)\Delta y \xi^2 \frac{n}{n-m} \left(\frac{n}{m}\right)^{\frac{m}{n-m}} \epsilon \left[\left(\frac{\sigma}{r'}\right)^n - \left(\frac{\sigma}{r'}\right)^m \right], \quad (6)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\Pi_{\text{T},i}^{\text{LRC}} &= \sum_k^{N_s} \frac{1}{2} \pi\rho(y_k)\Delta y \int_{r'}^{\infty} dr \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \frac{r^2 - \xi^2}{r} \\
&= \sum_k^{N_s} \frac{1}{2} \pi\rho(y_k)\Delta y \frac{n}{n-m} \left(\frac{n}{m}\right)^{\frac{m}{n-m}} \epsilon \left[\frac{nr^2 - (n-2)\xi^2}{(n-2)} \left(\frac{\sigma}{r'}\right)^n \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \frac{mr^2 - (m-2)\xi^2}{m-2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{r'}\right)^m \right]. \quad (7)
\end{aligned}$$

These correction terms are valid for single-site Mie models and a center-of-mass cutoff scheme, or for multi-site models if a site-site cutoff radius scheme is used. The corresponding expression for multi-site models and a center-of-mass cutoff scheme are given in the supplementary material.

In the present work, systems were studied where the vapor and liquid phases coexist in direct contact, employing periodic boundary conditions, so that there are two vapor-liquid interfaces which are oriented perpendicular to the y axis. The surface tension was computed from the deviation between the normal and the tangential diagonal components of the overall pressure tensor [66, 67]

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{2A} (\Pi_{\text{N}} - \Pi_{\text{T}}) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy (p_{\text{N}} - p_{\text{T}}). \quad (8)$$

Thereby, the normal pressure p_{N} is given by the y component of the diagonal of the pressure tensor, and the tangential pressure p_{T} was determined by averaging over the x and z components of the diagonal of the pressure tensor. The surface area A of each vapor-liquid interface is given by the cross section of the simulation volume normally to the y axis.

All thermodynamic properties can be reduced by the Lennard-Jones parameters σ and ϵ , the mass m , as well as the Boltzmann constant k_{B} . This approach reduces the parameters of the Mie fluid as it is studied here to one, the repulsive exponent n . Molecular simulations were performed in the present work for 14 different repulsive exponents ranging from $n = 9$ to $n = 48$ (in steps of $\Delta n = 3$). The temperature was varied from approximately 55 to 95 % T_{c} , where T_{c} is the critical temperature of the studied fluids.

The simulations were performed with an extended version of the molecular dy-

namics code *ls1 mardyn* [68, 69] in the canonical ensemble with $N = 16,000$ particles. Further simulation details are given in the Appendix.

3. Simulation results

3.1. Long-range correction

To validate the LRC, a series of simulations of the Mie fluid in VLE at approximately 55 % of the critical temperature was conducted. Unless a suitable LRC is used, the critical temperature is not reproduced correctly, and permanent homogeneous configurations may be found in the simulation even in the two-phase region significantly below the actual critical temperature. Therefore a temperature close to the triple point temperature was used for the systematic study of the influence of the LRC, so that vapor-liquid equilibria were also obtained for the extreme case of a short cutoff radius without any LRC.

In Fig. 1, these results are compared to the simulation results with a cutoff radius of $r_c = 5 \sigma$ and the present LRC approach to enable a comparison of various exponents. The results show the importance of the LRC for the heterogeneous simulations carried out in the present study. Without LRC, the results depend on the chosen value for r_c very significantly, so that large cutoff radii need to be used, which makes the simulations numerically expensive. For all thermodynamic properties, the results without LRC do eventually converge to a limit, but this limit is not reached even for $r_c = 5 \sigma$. Galliero et al. [1] showed that the saturated liquid density, vapor pressure and surface tension converge to the correct values if a cutoff radius of at least 7σ is used for Mie fluids with $8 < n < 20$. In contrast, using the LRC presented above, the results depend hardly on the choice of r_c , even for small values. Upon increasing r_c , the results obtained without LRC converge to those obtained with LRC, but only very slowly [1, 22]. This shows that the LRC as presented above and implemented in *ls1 mardyn* is correct and efficient. Fig. 1 also shows that the influence of the cutoff radius on the results obtained without LRC depends on the repulsive exponent used in the Mie potential, and that it is larger for small exponents.

[Figure 1 about here.]

The additional time consumption for the LRC is of the order of 10 % for a cutoff radius of $r_c = 2.5 \sigma$ and becomes negligible for larger cutoff radii [38, 64]. In contrast to Ewald summation based techniques, the LRC based on the density profile can also be applied to large numbers of particles and processing units, due to the low amount of communication needed for the evaluation of the density profile [59]. All simulation results reported below are obtained using the present LRC approach and a constant cutoff radius of $r_c = 5 \sigma$.

3.2. Systematic study of the vapor-liquid equilibrium

Figs. 2 - 5 show the results for the vapor pressure p^{s*} , the saturated liquid density ρ'^* , the saturated vapor density ρ''^* , the enthalpy of vaporization Δh_V^* and the surface tension γ^* obtained for the Mie fluid with 14 different repulsive exponents. Further numerical details are given in Table 1. The repulsive exponent n has a strong influence of the VLE behavior. As n increases, the critical temperature

decreases and the slope of the coexistence curve changes. For higher values of n the ratio of the triple point temperature and the critical temperature increases and therefore simulation were only performed for temperatures above 60 % T_c for $n \geq 36$.

[Table 1 about here.]

[Figure 2 about here.]

[Figure 3 about here.]

[Figure 4 about here.]

[Figure 5 about here.]

For each value of the repulsive exponent n , the simulation results were correlated using the approach by Lotfi et al. [37, 70, 71]. This approach is an extension of the density-temperature dependence given by Guggenheim [72], i.e. $\rho \sim (T_c - T)^{1/3}$. The saturated densities from simulation were described by

$$\rho'^* = \rho_c^* + C_1(T_c^* - T^*)^{1/3} + C_2'(T_c^* - T^*) + C_3'(T_c^* - T^*)^{3/2}, \quad (9)$$

$$\rho''^* = \rho_c^* - C_1(T_c^* - T^*)^{1/3} + C_2''(T_c^* - T^*) + C_3''(T_c^* - T^*)^{3/2}. \quad (10)$$

The parameters $C_1, C_2', C_2'', C_3', C_3''$, as well as the critical densities and temperatures were fitted simultaneously to the simulation results and correlated as outlined below, cf. Eqs. (14) - (16).

The vapor pressure was correlated using the approach by Lotfi et al. [37, 70, 71]

$$\ln p^{s*} = c_1 T^* - \frac{c_2}{T^*} - \frac{c_3}{T^{4*}}. \quad (11)$$

The enthalpy of vaporization was correlated using a similar approach as for the saturated liquid density. The first parameter was omitted, so that the enthalpy of vaporization decreases towards zero at the critical point.

$$\Delta h_V^* = d_1(T_c^* - T^*)^{1/3} + d_2(T_c^* - T^*) + d_3(T_c^* - T^*)^{3/2} \quad (12)$$

Following the principle of corresponding states [72–74], the surface tension was correlated here using a critical scaling expression

$$\gamma^* = A \left(1 - \frac{T^*}{T_c^*} \right)^B. \quad (13)$$

The individual parameters are correlated as global functions of the repulsive exponent n . It turns out that for correlating the critical temperature and density, the simple forms presented in Eqs. (14) and (15) give good results:

$$T_c = a + b/n + c/n^3, \quad (14)$$

$$\rho_c = d + e \log(n). \quad (15)$$

The numbers for a, b, c, d , and e are given in Table 2.

[Table 2 about here.]

The individual parameters of the correlations in Eqs. (9) - (13) can be described by similar functional forms dependent on the repulsive exponent n , cf. Eq. 16:

$$X = \alpha_X + \beta_X n + \eta_X / n + \delta_X \log(n), \quad (16)$$

where X is any of the correlation parameters introduced above. The individual parameters α_X , β_X , η_X , δ_X for Eq. (16) are given in Table 3.

[Table 3 about here.]

The correlations represent the simulation results within the statistical uncertainties in most cases, cf. Figs. 2 - 5.

Fig. 6 shows the relative deviation of the simulation results from the correlations for the Mie fluid with $n = 9$, $n = 15$ and $n = 27$. The relative mean deviations of the correlations from simulation data is calculated by

$$\delta X = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \frac{1}{M} \sum_i^N \sum_j^M \left(\frac{(X_{i,\text{corr}}(T_j) - X_{i,\text{sim}}(T_j))}{X_{i,\text{sim}}(T_j)} \right)^2}, \quad (17)$$

where i represents a counter for the different exponents of the Mie fluid and j the different temperatures. The numerical values for the relative mean deviations are 0.19 % for the saturated liquid density, 9.8 % for the saturated vapor density, 1.6 % for the vapor pressure, 0.84 % for the enthalpy of vaporization and 1.9 % for the surface tension. The correlation for the saturated vapor density does not capture the limiting case of the ideal gas and should therefore not be used for temperatures below $0.7 T_c$ [37].

[Figure 6 about here.]

Fig. 7 shows a comparison of the present critical data with results from the literature. As the repulsive exponent n increases, the critical temperature decreases. The correlation given by Eq. (14) is in very good agreement with the literature data, even for $n < 9$, i.e. in a range to which it was not adjusted. The critical density increases only very slightly with the repulsive exponent and this trend is well reproduced by the correlation and confirmed by literature data. The results by Okumura and Yonezawa [24] for the critical density are smaller than the present values, but the correlation agrees well with literature data on the Lennard-Jones fluid [70, 75]. The critical pressure was determined with a combination of Eqs. (11) and (14). As the repulsive exponent n increases, the critical pressure decreases, which is well predicted by the correlation and confirmed by literature data.

[Figure 7 about here.]

Fig. 8 shows the surface tension of the Mie fluid over the temperature and Fig. 9 shows the saturated densities of the Mie fluid. The simulation results from the present work are in very good agreement with the simulation data of Galliero et al. [1], even though the correlation is extrapolated to $n < 9$ here as well.

[Figure 8 about here.]

[Figure 9 about here.]

4. Application to carbon dioxide and comparison with other potentials

The correlations introduced above can be used to adjust model parameters to experimental VLE data. In the present work, the Mie fluid (with three parameters σ , ϵ and n) is compared to the standard 12-6 Lennard-Jones potential (with two parameters σ and ϵ) and the two-center Lennard-Jones plus point quadrupole (2CLJQ) model (with four parameters σ , ϵ , the elongation L and the quadrupole moment Q). Carbon dioxide is used as a test case. There are several 2CLJQ models [4, 40, 76–78] and three site models with superimposed electrostatics [79–82] for the description of CO₂ and one model based on a single-site four-parameter Mie potential [7].

Following the approach introduced by Stöbener et al. [5], multi-criteria optimization based on Pareto sets is used in the present study. The three objective functions δO are considered here, representing relative mean deviations in the saturated liquid density, the vapor pressure and the surface tension,

$$\delta O = \sqrt{\frac{1}{K} \sum_{j=1}^K \left(\frac{O^{\text{exp}}(T_j) - O^{\text{sim}}(T_j, \sigma, \epsilon, n, L, Q)}{O^{\text{exp}}(T_j)} \right)^2}, \quad (18)$$

where the O^{exp} are calculated by DIPPR correlations to experimental data, and the O^{sim} are obtained from Eqs. (9), (11) and (13). The thermodynamic properties were evaluated at 15 temperatures T_j from the triple point temperature up to 95 % of the critical temperature of carbon dioxide ($T_c = 304.13$ K [83]) in equal steps.

The DIPPR correlations as well as the correlations to the simulation data are subject to errors. As discussed above, the relative mean deviations of the correlations to simulation data are 0.2 %, 1.6 % and 1.9 % for saturated liquid density, the vapor pressure and the surface tension, respectively. The corresponding relative mean deviations for the DIPPR correlations are 0.2 %, 1 % and 4 %, respectively [84].

The Pareto set for the multicriteria optimization problem described above was determined in different ways depending on the potential: For the LJ and the Mie model, a brute force sampling of the parameter space was performed [4], while the 2CLJQ Pareto set was determined by a combination of sandwiching and hyper-boxing, for details see Stöbener et al. [6].

For the brute force sampling of the parameters σ , ϵ and n , a sample grid consisting of $200 \times 200 \times 50$ points was used. For the Lennard-Jones potential, the repulsive exponent was fixed and the grid size for σ and ϵ was 200×200 .

Fig. 10 shows the Pareto set determined with respect to two objective functions: the deviation in the saturated liquid density $\delta\rho^l$ and the vapor pressure δp^S . All model parameterizations which are Pareto-optimal for the two-criteria optimization remain Pareto-optimal if the third optimization criterion, i.e. the surface tension, is taken into account. The three different lines correspond to the three different molecular model types. The Lennard-Jones model yields very large errors and is obviously not suited for describing the studied properties of CO₂. It is therefore not discussed further.

[Figure 10 about here.]

The Pareto of the two models as depicted in Fig. 10 reveal the typical features:

they include different regions: extreme compromises and the so-called Pareto knee. As an extreme compromise, the deviation in saturated liquid density can be below 0.03 %, however only at the expense of deviations in the vapor pressure of 15 % (2CLJQ) or 18 % (Mie). The deviation in the vapor pressure can be below 0.4 % if deviations in the saturated liquid density of 4 % (2CLJQ) or 5 % (Mie) are accepted. The most attractive part of the Pareto set is usually in between those extreme cases, i.e. in the Pareto knee. The repulsive exponent n varies between 24 and 39, which compares favorably with Avendaño et al. [7], who used a repulsive exponent of $n = 23$, but a different dispersive exponent, and Maurer [85], who used exponents of $n = 30$ and $n = 33$ for a perturbation theory. Ramrattan et al. concluded that a repulsive exponent $n = 31$ should be used for an attractive exponent of $m = 6$ [23]. Comparing the Pareto set of the Mie and the 2CLJQ model shows that the latter enables a better description of the studied data of CO₂. Fig. 10 also includes results from some literature models of CO₂.

Avendaño et al. [7] used a 4 parameter Mie model in which the dispersive exponent of $n = 6.66$, which was adjusted. The optimization of the model by Avendaño et al. [7] was performed not only with a focus on the vapor pressure and the saturated liquid density, but also on the surface tension and transport properties. The model by Vrabc et al. [40] is a reparameterization of the 2CLJQ model by Möller and Fischer [76]. More complex models in the literature are based on three Lennard-Jones sites and three partial charges, e.g. [79, 80]. These models do not necessarily represent the VLE with a higher accuracy, but instead show higher deviations than the single-site Mie model. Very recently Jiang et al. [82] developed two Buckingham potential models for CO₂ based on Gaussian charges. These models perform very well for transport properties and homogeneous state points, whereas no improvement for description of the vapor-liquid equilibrium is found [82].

As one possible compromise between the two objectives of minimizing δp^S and $\delta \rho'$, a model parameterization is selected here from the Pareto set which reaches an overall agreement of $\delta \rho' = 0.8$ %, $\delta p^S = 5.6$ %, $\delta \Delta h_V = 2.1$ % and $\delta \gamma = 23.3$ %. The corresponding model parameters are $\sigma = 3.768$ Å, $\epsilon / k_B = 366$ K and $n = 39$. The representation of the discussed thermodynamics properties of the present Mie model is shown in Figs. 11 to 14. The saturated liquid density and the vapor pressure were used for the parameterization of the Mie fluid and therefore both properties show a good agreement with experimental data. The enthalpy of vaporization was not used in the parameterization, but the predictions match the experimental data well. The surface tensions are also predictions. There are deviations from experimental data larger than 20 %, which is typical for molecular models which are adjusted in a similar manner [4, 6, 9–12, 22, 86].

[Figure 11 about here.]

[Figure 12 about here.]

[Figure 13 about here.]

[Figure 14 about here.]

To reduce the deviations in the surface tension, the surface tension has to be included in the parameterization. Fig. 15 shows the three dimensional Pareto set of the single-site three-parameter Mie model for CO₂ in the parameter and objective spaces. The surface tension is added to the other two objective functions,

i.e. the saturated liquid density and the vapor pressure. The Pareto set of the two-dimensional optimization is a subset of the Pareto set resulting from the three dimensional optimization. Adding a third criterion to the optimization leads to a more complex situation. The surface tension is a competing objective function to the other objective functions, i.e. an optimization in the surface tension leads to a decline in at least one other objective function. It is usually not possible to obtain a good molecular model that represents the saturated liquid density, the vapor pressure and the surface tension with a good accuracy simultaneously [4, 6, 22].

[Figure 15 about here.]

5. Conclusion

In the present work the VLE of the Mie fluid was evaluated by molecular dynamics simulations. The LRC for molecular simulations with planar interfaces from previous work was generalized to the Mie potential. The influence of the LRC on the numerical accuracy for the saturated liquid density, the vapor pressure and the surface tension was studied. The present approach yields very good results, and its dependence on the cutoff radius is weak down to $r_c = 2.5\sigma$.

The VLE of the Mie fluid was determined with 14 different values of the repulsive exponent parameter, yielding results for the saturated liquid density, the saturated vapor density, the vapor pressure, the enthalpy of vaporization and the surface tension. A global correlation for the critical properties as well as the VLE properties was developed as a function of the repulsive exponent n . The correlations agree with the simulation data within the statistical uncertainties in most cases and are also in very good agreement with available simulation data on the Mie fluid from the literature.

Based on these correlations, new molecular models of the Mie type can easily be developed. As an example, CO_2 is studied. The parameterization of the Mie model of CO_2 is based on the correlations established in the present study. Multi-criteria optimization is used. The Pareto set gives an overview how well the Mie model can represent the studied properties, which are saturated liquid density, vapor pressure and surface tension. It is possible to obtain a molecular model that represents the saturated liquid density and the vapor pressure with 0.8 % and 5.6 % deviation, respectively. However, the average deviation of this model from the experimental surface tension is comparably high (23 %). These results can therefore be used for tuning the three-parameter Mie potential for CO_2 to individual needs. Furthermore, the correlations of the different properties enable a swift development of Mie models for other fluids.

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Appendix

Molecular simulation details

The simulations were performed in the canonical ensemble. The equation of motion was solved by a leapfrog integrator [87] with a time step of $\Delta t = 0.001 \sigma \sqrt{m/\epsilon}$. The elongation of the simulation volume normal to the interface was 80σ and the thickness of the liquid film in the center of the simulation volume was 40σ to account for finite size effects [88]. The elongation in the other spatial directions was at least 20σ . The equilibration was executed for 500,000 time steps. The production was conducted for 2,500,000 time steps to reduce statistical uncertainties. Throughout the present work, the statistical errors were estimated to be three times the standard deviation of five block averages, each over 500,000 time steps. The saturated densities and vapor pressures were calculated as an average over the respective phases excluding the area close to the interface, i.e. the area where the first derivative of the density with respect to the y coordinate deviated from zero significantly.

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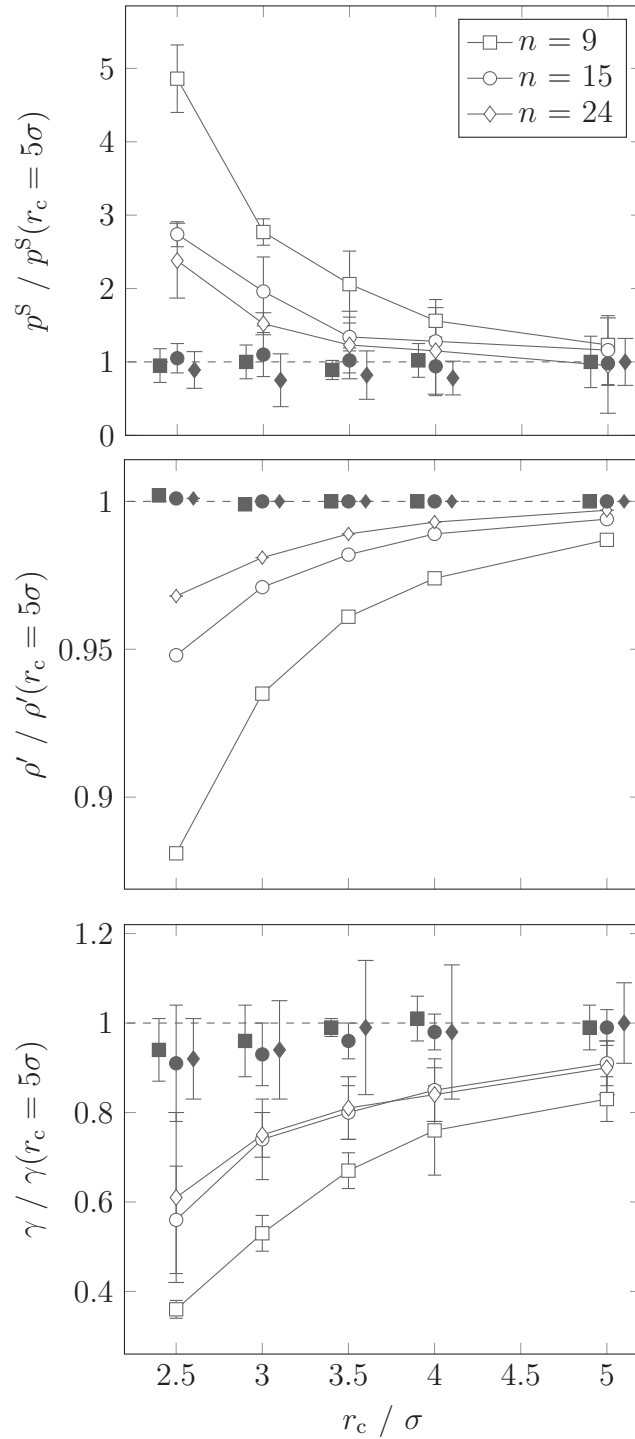


Figure 1. Influence of the cutoff radius and the LRC on different thermodynamic properties of the Mie fluid at 55 % of their critical temperature: Vapor pressure (top), saturated liquid density (center) and surface tension (bottom). These thermodynamic properties are reduced here by the values obtained for a cutoff radius of $r_c = 5 \sigma$, using the LRC from the present work. The open symbols correspond to simulations without any LRC and the closed symbols are the simulation results with the present LRC. The results for the present LRC and $n = 9$ are shifted to the left by 0.1σ , and the results for $n = 24$ are shifted to the right by 0.1σ , to make the results clearly visible.

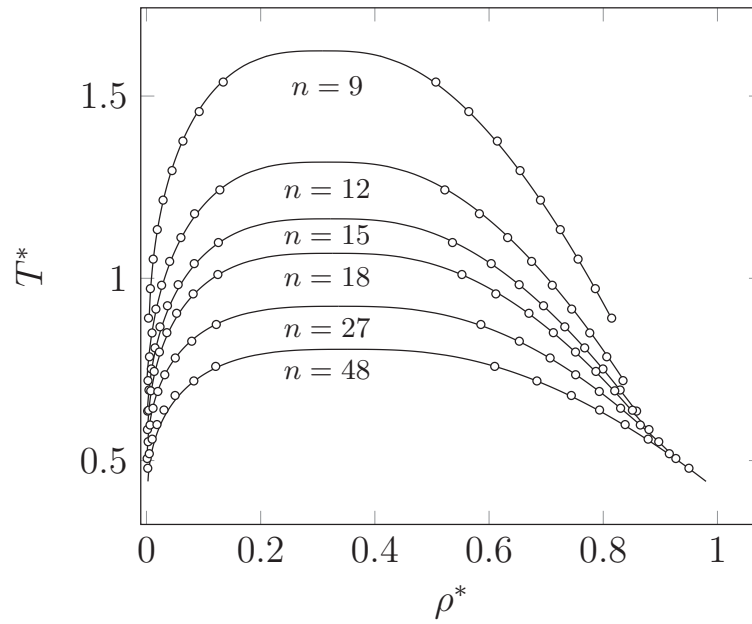


Figure 2. Saturated densities of the Mie fluid. The symbols are simulation results from the present work. The lines are correlations from Eqs. (9) and (10). The simulation uncertainties are smaller than the symbol size in all cases.

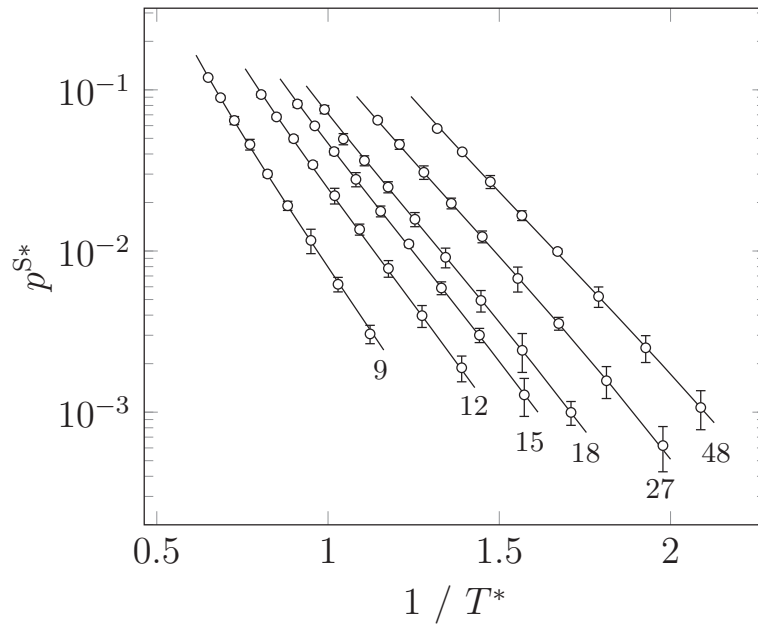


Figure 3. Vapor pressure curves of the Mie fluid. The symbols are simulation results from the present work. The lines are correlations from Eq. (11). The numbers are those for the exponent n of the fluid.

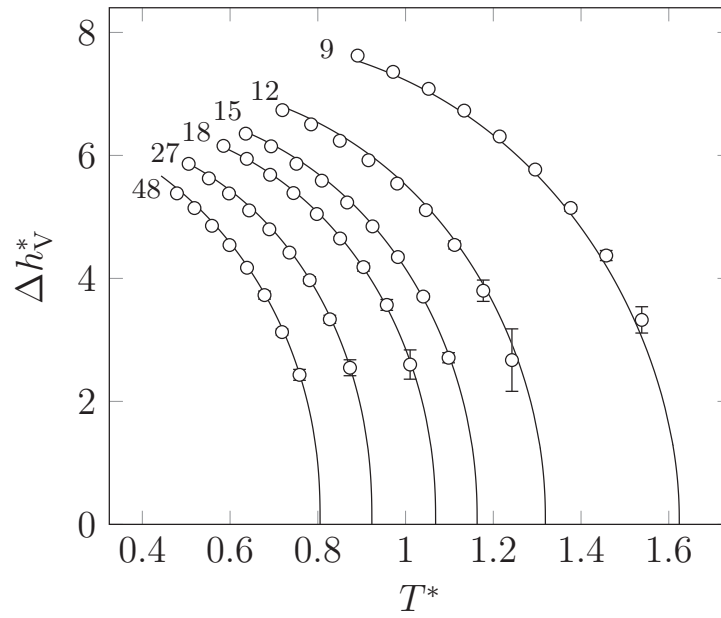


Figure 4. Enthalpy of vaporization of the Mie fluid as a function of the temperature. The symbols are simulation results from the present work. The lines are correlations from Eq. (12). The numbers are those for the exponent n of the fluid.

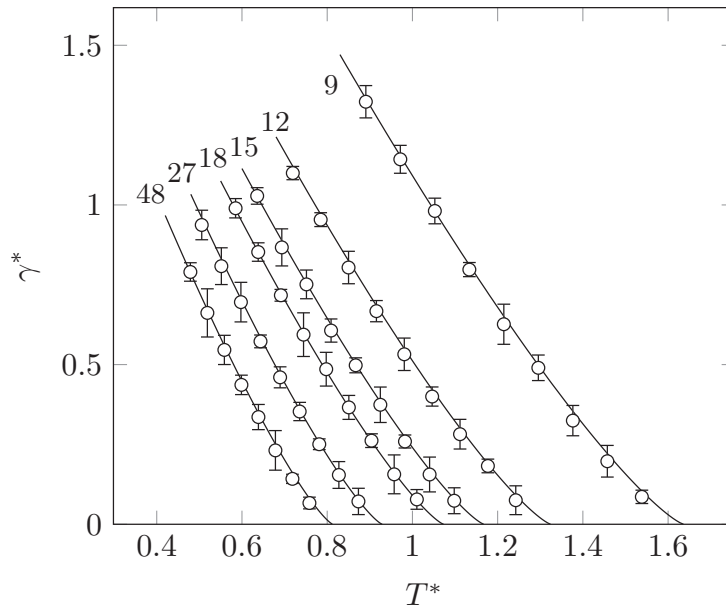


Figure 5. Surface tension of the Mie fluid as a function of the temperature. The symbols are simulation results from the present work. The lines are correlations from Eq. (13). The numbers are those for the exponent n of the fluid.

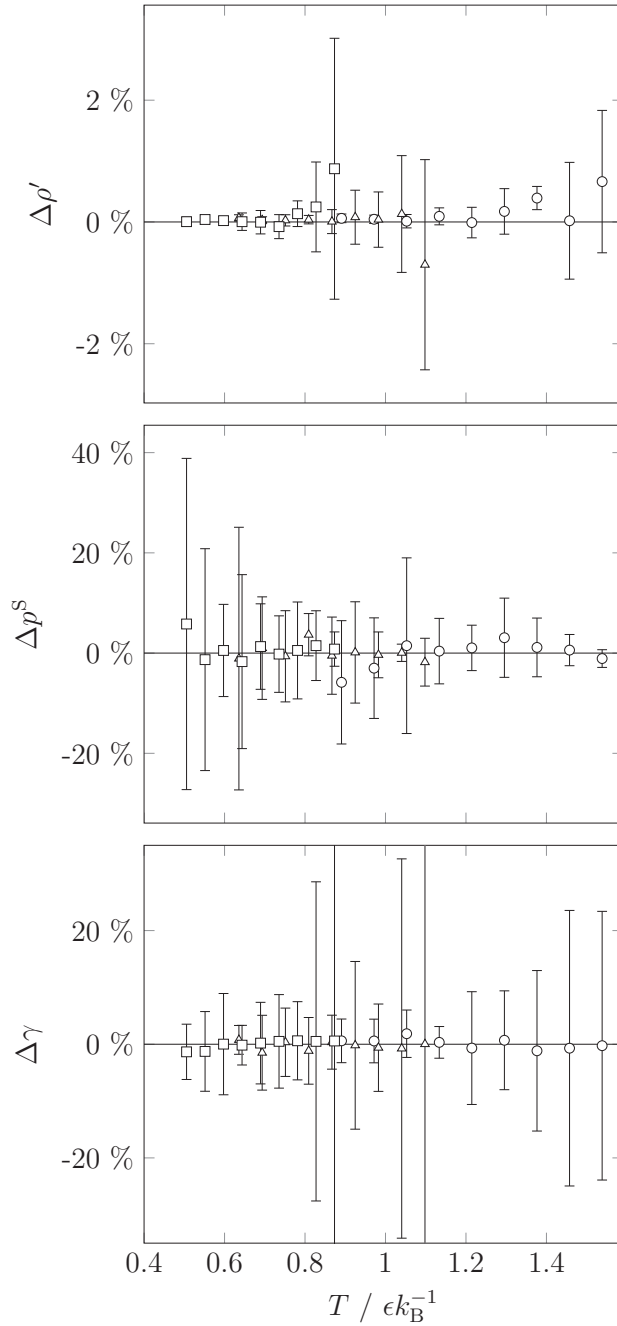


Figure 6. Relative deviation $\Delta X = (X_{\text{corr}} - X_{\text{sim}})/X_{\text{sim}}$ of simulation results of the Mie fluid from the correlations given by Eq. (9) (top), Eq. (11) (center) and Eq. (13) (bottom), for different repulsive exponents: 9 (\circ), 15 (\triangle), 27 (\square).

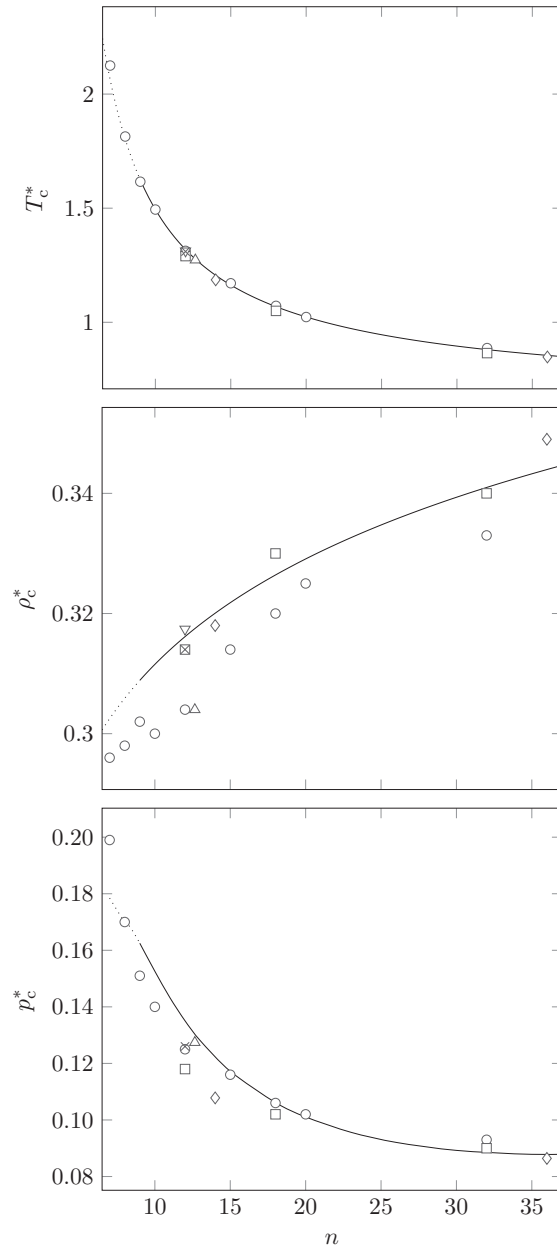


Figure 7. Critical properties of the Mie fluid as a function of the repulsive exponent: critical temperature (top), critical density (center) and critical pressure (bottom). The solid lines are the correlations given in Eq. (14), (15) and (11), and the symbols are results from the work of: Okumura and Yonezawa [24] (\circ), Orea et al. [2] (\square), Lafitte et al. [35] (\triangle), Potoff and Bernard-Brunel [28] (\diamond), Lotfi et al. [70] (\times), Pérez-Pellitero et al. [75] (∇). The present correlation is continued as a dotted line for $n < 9$.

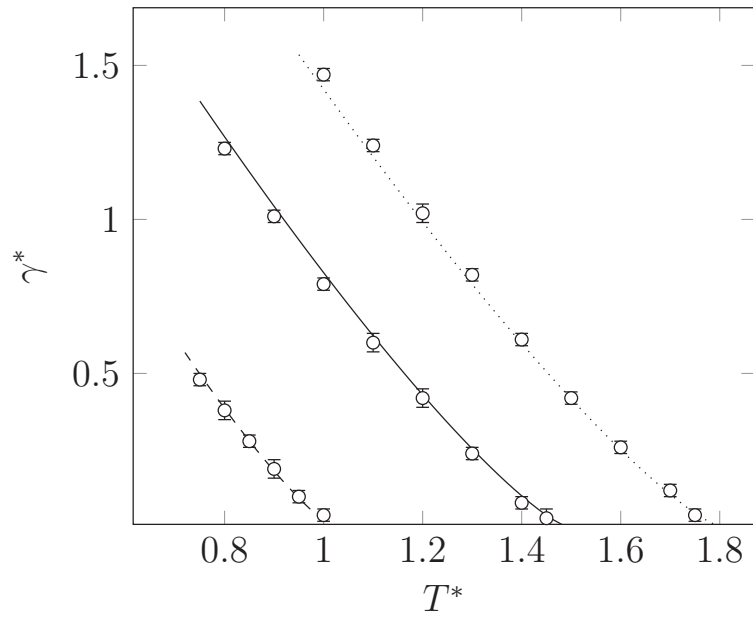


Figure 8. Surface tension of the Mie fluid as a function of the temperature. The symbols are simulation results from Galliero et al. [1] and the lines are correlations from Eq. (13): $n = 8$ (\cdots), $n = 10$ (---) and $n = 20$ (- - -).

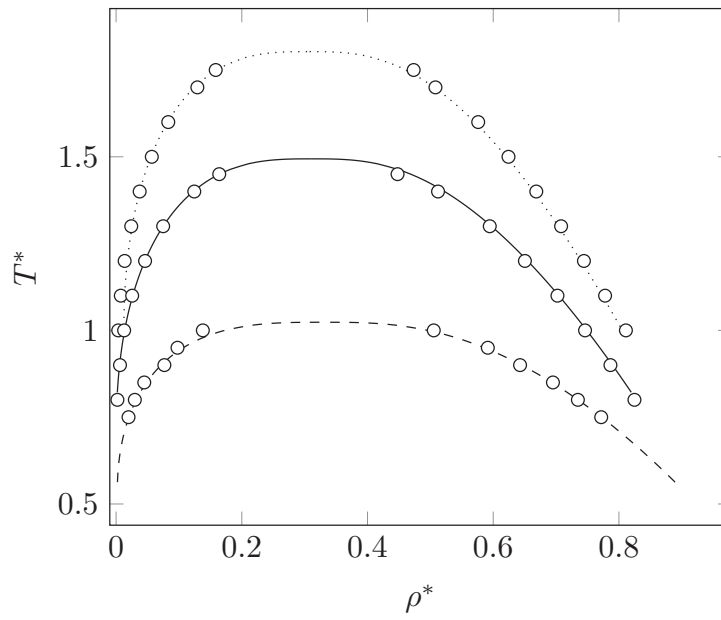


Figure 9. Saturated densities of the Mie fluid. The symbols are simulation results from Galliero et al. [1] and the lines are correlations from Eq. (13): $n = 8$ (\cdots), $n = 10$ (—) and $n = 20$ (-- --).

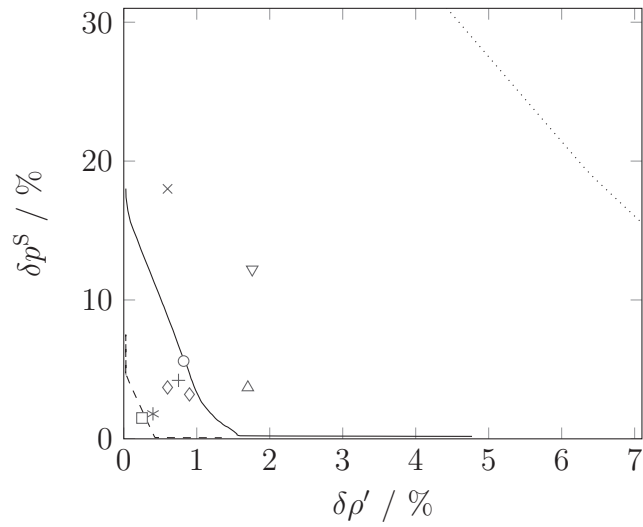


Figure 10. Pareto set for CO₂. The dotted line corresponds to the Lennard-Jones fluid, the solid line to the three-parameter Mie fluid, and dashed line to the 2CLJQ fluid. The symbols represent molecular models: (∇) Harris and Yung (3CLJ + 3 partial charges) [79], (\times) Zhang and Duan (3CLJ + 3 partial charges) [80, 89], (\diamond) Jiang et al. [82] (3 Buckingham sites + 3 Gaussian charges), ($*$) Merker et al. [81] (3CLJQ), (\square) Vrabec et al. (2CLJQ) [40], ($+$) Möller and Fischer (2CLJQ) [76], (\triangle) Avendaño et al. (four-parameter Mie) [7, 8] and (\circ) the present model with $\sigma = 3.768 \text{ \AA}$, $\epsilon/k_B = 366 \text{ K}$ and $n = 39$.

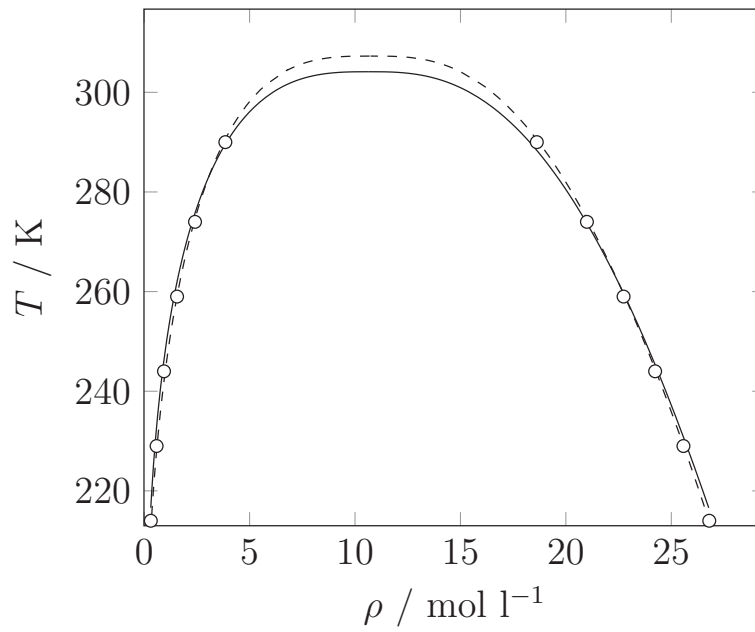


Figure 11. Saturated densities of CO_2 . The symbols are the present simulations results, the dashed line represents Eqs. (9) and (10), and the solid line represents correlations to experimental data [83]. The simulation uncertainties are smaller than the symbol size in all cases.

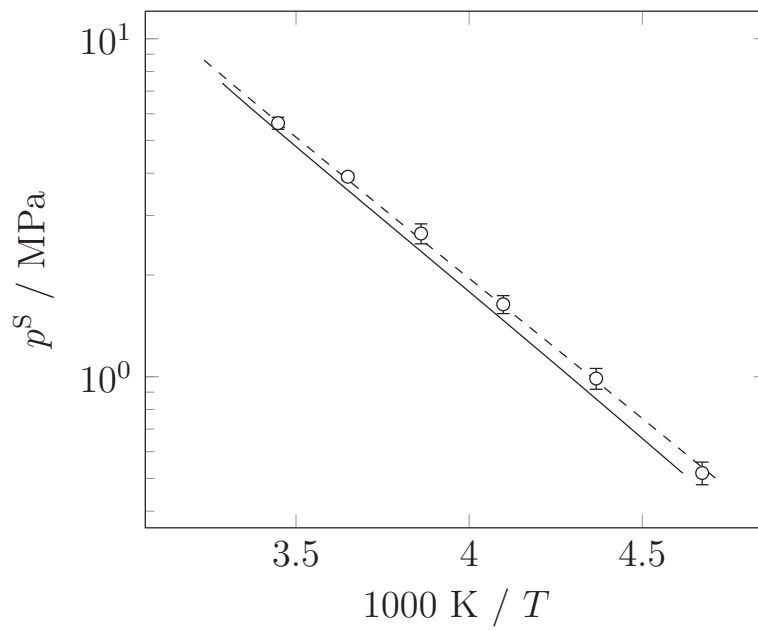


Figure 12. Vapor pressure curve of CO_2 . The symbols are the present simulations results, the dashed line represents Eq. (11) and the solid line represents a correlation to experimental data [83].

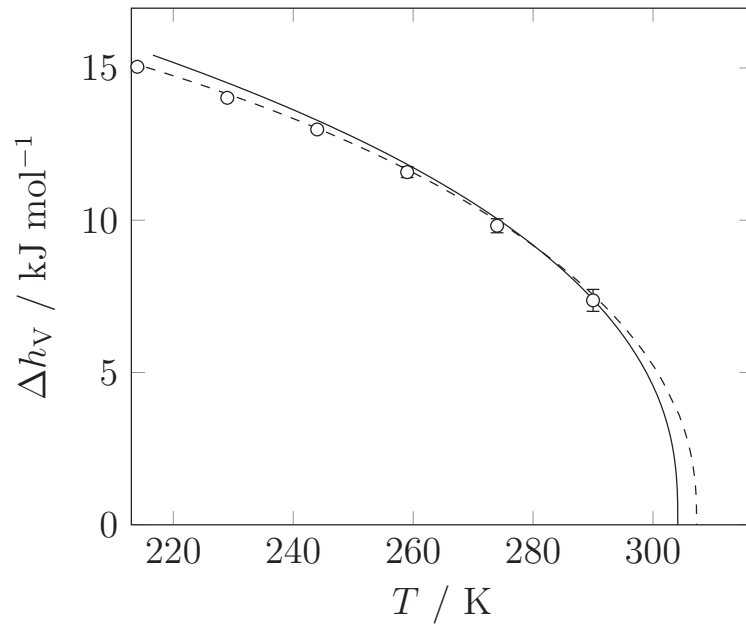


Figure 13. Enthalpy of vaporization of CO_2 as a function of the temperature. The symbols are the present simulations results, the dashed line represents Eq. (12) and the solid line represents a correlation to experimental data [83].

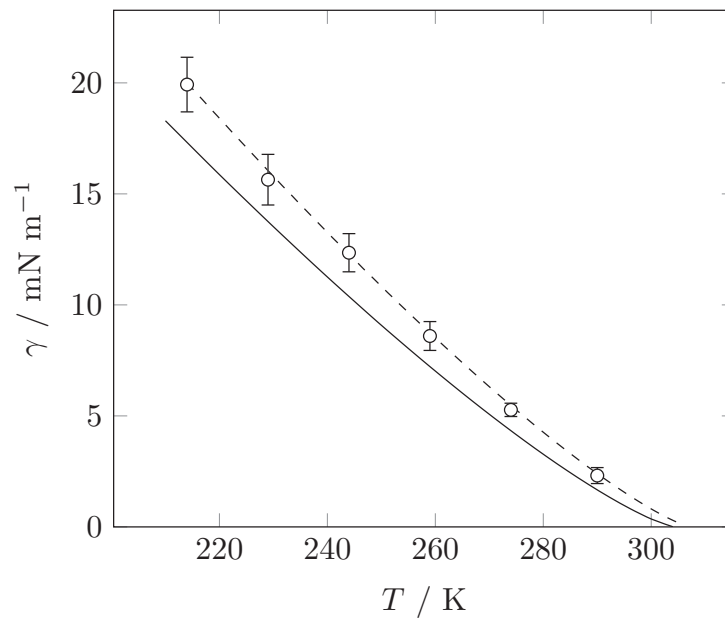


Figure 14. Surface tension of CO_2 as a function of the temperature. The symbols are the present simulation results, the dashed line represents Eq. (13) and the solid line represents a correlation to experimental data [84].

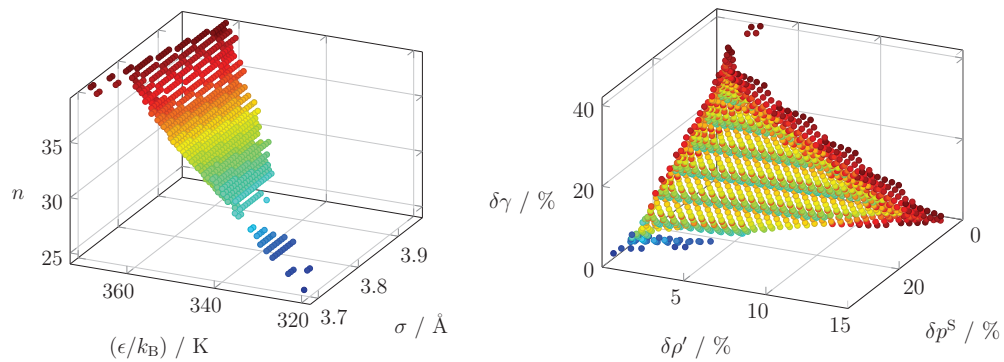


Figure 15. Pareto set of the Mie potential for CO_2 in the parameter space (left) and the objective space (right). The colors represent the numerical value of the repulsive exponent n and connect the points in the parameter and the object space.

Table 1.: Simulation results for the vapor pressure, the saturated densities, the enthalpy of vaporization and the surface tension of the Mie fluid from the present work. The numbers in parentheses indicate the uncertainties of the last decimal digits.

	T^*	p^{s*}	ρ'^*	ρ''^*	Δh_V^*	γ^*
$n = 9$	0.8907	0.0031(4)	0.8147(6)	0.0035(4)	7.62(1)	1.31(5)
	0.9716	0.0062(6)	0.7891(5)	0.0068(6)	7.37(1)	1.14(4)
	1.0526	0.0116(20)	0.7559(8)	0.0118(19)	7.08(1)	0.98(4)
	1.1336	0.0191(12)	0.7247(10)	0.0189(12)	6.73(3)	0.80(2)
	1.2145	0.0301(13)	0.6900(17)	0.0291(11)	6.31(2)	0.63(6)
	1.2955	0.0458(35)	0.6543(24)	0.0448(34)	5.77(3)	0.49(4)
	1.3765	0.0645(37)	0.6145(12)	0.0639(41)	5.15(5)	0.32(5)
	1.4574	0.0894(28)	0.5645(54)	0.0924(40)	4.37(8)	0.20(5)
	1.5384	0.1193(21)	0.5068(59)	0.1344(97)	3.33(21)	0.09(2)
$n = 12$	0.7193	0.0019(3)	0.8346(7)	0.0027(5)	6.74(2)	1.10(2)
	0.7847	0.0040(6)	0.8061(5)	0.0053(7)	6.50(2)	0.95(2)
	0.8501	0.0078(9)	0.7763(11)	0.0098(14)	6.24(2)	0.80(5)
	0.9155	0.0136(11)	0.7447(9)	0.0165(11)	5.92(2)	0.67(3)
	0.9809	0.0220(25)	0.7107(22)	0.0265(24)	5.54(4)	0.53(5)
	1.0463	0.0343(15)	0.6745(39)	0.0406(30)	5.11(4)	0.40(3)
	1.1117	0.0498(21)	0.6325(38)	0.0603(41)	4.54(7)	0.28(5)
	1.1771	0.0679(23)	0.5831(39)	0.0842(50)	3.80(17)	0.18(2)
	1.2425	0.0935(36)	0.5225(93)	0.129(13)	2.67(51)	0.08(5)
$n = 15$	0.6357	0.0013(3)	0.8584(4)	0.0021(4)	6.35(2)	1.03(3)
	0.6935	0.0030(3)	0.8296(5)	0.0044(5)	6.15(1)	0.87(6)
	0.7513	0.0059(5)	0.7995(7)	0.0085(9)	5.86(1)	0.75(4)
	0.8091	0.0111(4)	0.7675(5)	0.0149(10)	5.59(3)	0.61(4)
	0.8669	0.0177(14)	0.7327(14)	0.0237(17)	5.23(3)	0.50(2)
	0.9247	0.0278(28)	0.6954(31)	0.0367(45)	4.85(4)	0.37(6)
	0.9825	0.0414(19)	0.6527(30)	0.0555(30)	4.35(4)	0.26(2)
	1.0403	0.0598(10)	0.6038(58)	0.0837(29)	3.70(5)	0.16(5)
	1.0981	0.0817(40)	0.5359(93)	0.126(13)	2.71(8)	0.07(4)
$n = 18$	0.5850	0.0010(2)	0.8801(4)	0.0017(3)	6.16(2)	0.99(3)
	0.6381	0.0024(7)	0.8511(6)	0.0038(8)	5.94(3)	0.85(3)
	0.6913	0.0049(8)	0.8201(5)	0.0075(10)	5.68(3)	0.72(2)
	0.7445	0.0091(13)	0.7871(11)	0.0135(15)	5.39(3)	0.59(7)
	0.7977	0.0157(16)	0.7514(13)	0.0227(20)	5.05(3)	0.49(5)
	0.8508	0.0249(20)	0.7126(31)	0.0357(33)	4.65(3)	0.37(4)
	0.9040	0.0364(26)	0.6698(21)	0.0528(51)	4.18(7)	0.26(2)
	0.9572	0.0496(40)	0.6119(80)	0.0818(39)	3.57(9)	0.16(6)
	1.0104	0.0755(44)	0.5525(48)	0.125(11)	2.60(24)	0.08(3)

	T^*	p^{s*}	ρ'^*	ρ''^*	Δh_V^*	γ^*
$n = 21$	0.5503	0.0008(2)	0.8984(2)	0.0015(3)	6.03(1)	0.96(9)
	0.6004	0.0019(1)	0.8691(4)	0.0033(2)	5.79(1)	0.83(6)
	0.6504	0.0044(4)	0.8376(12)	0.0071(11)	5.55(1)	0.70(6)
	0.7004	0.0081(8)	0.8039(9)	0.0126(16)	5.25(2)	0.59(6)
	0.7504	0.0143(14)	0.7681(16)	0.0215(30)	4.94(5)	0.48(2)
	0.8005	0.0228(8)	0.7281(16)	0.0346(8)	4.54(1)	0.35(5)
	0.8505	0.0339(22)	0.6844(39)	0.0515(44)	4.10(6)	0.26(3)
	0.9005	0.0507(21)	0.6330(51)	0.0804(47)	3.45(6)	0.16(3)
	0.9506	0.0701(16)	0.565(13)	0.1213(72)	2.62(16)	0.07(2)
$n = 24$	0.5250	0.0007(2)	0.9139(7)	0.0012(5)	5.96(2)	0.96(6)
	0.5727	0.0017(3)	0.8842(6)	0.0031(6)	5.70(4)	0.82(7)
	0.6205	0.0038(7)	0.8523(14)	0.0065(8)	5.45(4)	0.71(5)
	0.6682	0.0074(5)	0.8185(24)	0.0122(10)	5.17(3)	0.58(5)
	0.7159	0.0128(10)	0.7820(9)	0.0203(10)	4.86(2)	0.47(3)
	0.7636	0.0209(13)	0.7416(15)	0.0329(27)	4.48(2)	0.35(2)
	0.8114	0.0327(11)	0.6965(31)	0.0517(31)	4.02(4)	0.25(3)
	0.8591	0.0477(19)	0.6444(60)	0.0787(46)	3.40(8)	0.15(3)
	0.9068	0.0668(14)	0.573(12)	0.121(11)	2.57(17)	0.07(3)
$n = 27$	0.5056	0.0006(2)	0.9271(7)	0.0012(2)	5.86(3)	0.94(5)
	0.5516	0.0016(4)	0.8972(6)	0.0030(4)	5.63(3)	0.81(6)
	0.5975	0.0036(3)	0.8649(4)	0.0063(7)	5.38(3)	0.70(6)
	0.6435	0.0068(12)	0.8304(12)	0.0115(18)	5.11(2)	0.57(2)
	0.6895	0.0123(10)	0.7931(15)	0.0200(10)	4.80(2)	0.46(3)
	0.7354	0.0198(15)	0.7516(15)	0.0320(31)	4.42(2)	0.35(3)
	0.7814	0.0308(30)	0.7069(15)	0.0505(56)	3.97(6)	0.25(2)
	0.8274	0.0459(31)	0.6530(48)	0.0793(69)	3.33(7)	0.15(4)
	0.8733	0.0648(22)	0.586(12)	0.1222(72)	2.55(13)	0.07(4)
$n = 30$	0.4902	0.0005(1)	0.9383(4)	0.0010(1)	5.80(2)	0.96(4)
	0.5348	0.0015(5)	0.9083(11)	0.0028(8)	5.57(3)	0.83(3)
	0.5794	0.0032(4)	0.8757(7)	0.0058(6)	5.34(3)	0.69(2)
	0.6239	0.0064(5)	0.8405(12)	0.0112(13)	5.05(3)	0.57(2)
	0.6685	0.0115(10)	0.8027(9)	0.0194(17)	4.74(2)	0.47(4)
	0.7131	0.0188(15)	0.7614(18)	0.0311(30)	4.38(2)	0.35(3)
	0.7576	0.0295(14)	0.7112(58)	0.0510(21)	3.87(5)	0.24(3)
	0.8022	0.0448(6)	0.6603(15)	0.0789(19)	3.31(3)	0.16(3)
	0.8468	0.0623(16)	0.5901(99)	0.1194(22)	2.58(8)	0.07(2)

	T^*	p^{s*}	ρ'^*	ρ''^*	Δh_V^*	γ^*
$n = 33$	0.4777	0.0005(2)	0.9482(8)	0.0011(3)	5.76(2)	0.94(8)
	0.5212	0.0013(2)	0.9179(12)	0.0026(6)	5.52(3)	0.80(9)
	0.5646	0.0031(3)	0.8848(9)	0.0057(5)	5.29(3)	0.69(3)
	0.6080	0.0061(6)	0.8494(8)	0.0108(7)	5.01(1)	0.57(7)
	0.6515	0.0109(5)	0.8105(6)	0.0187(6)	4.70(2)	0.46(4)
	0.6949	0.0180(6)	0.7690(29)	0.0309(13)	4.33(3)	0.35(2)
	0.7383	0.0293(15)	0.7217(22)	0.0509(18)	3.86(3)	0.24(2)
	0.7818	0.0429(13)	0.6656(71)	0.0776(50)	3.28(7)	0.15(5)
	0.8252	0.0613(20)	0.5919(77)	0.1206(63)	2.50(9)	0.08(3)
$n = 36$	0.5099	0.0013(3)	0.9259(4)	0.0026(3)	5.49(2)	0.81(6)
	0.5524	0.0029(4)	0.8927(8)	0.0056(6)	5.23(2)	0.69(5)
	0.5948	0.0058(3)	0.8567(11)	0.0104(7)	4.98(1)	0.56(3)
	0.6373	0.0102(11)	0.8180(24)	0.0183(15)	4.65(3)	0.44(4)
	0.6798	0.0176(14)	0.7753(24)	0.0308(38)	4.29(3)	0.35(6)
	0.7223	0.0282(17)	0.7264(35)	0.0499(27)	3.83(4)	0.25(3)
	0.7648	0.0424(29)	0.6709(51)	0.0786(75)	3.24(7)	0.14(3)
	0.8073	0.0614(38)	0.6016(56)	0.126(10)	2.45(12)	0.07(2)
	$n = 39$	0.5003	0.0011(3)	0.9332(15)	0.0023(5)	5.42(2)
0.5420		0.0028(5)	0.8996(6)	0.0053(5)	5.22(2)	0.68(5)
0.5837		0.0055(7)	0.8634(9)	0.0101(6)	4.94(2)	0.56(6)
0.6254		0.0105(6)	0.8240(13)	0.0190(16)	4.61(3)	0.44(5)
0.6671		0.0173(7)	0.7807(22)	0.0303(22)	4.27(2)	0.35(2)
0.7088		0.0281(22)	0.7325(32)	0.0503(61)	3.81(6)	0.24(4)
0.7505		0.0414(21)	0.6765(41)	0.0777(73)	3.23(8)	0.15(1)
0.7922		0.0596(29)	0.5999(78)	0.124(11)	2.42(12)	0.06(3)
$n = 42$		0.4511	0.0011(2)	0.9394(3)	0.0023(7)	5.43(2)
	0.4922	0.0026(7)	0.9058(10)	0.0051(10)	5.19(2)	0.66(3)
	0.5332	0.0055(4)	0.8689(13)	0.0101(2)	4.91(2)	0.55(4)
	0.5742	0.0101(7)	0.8289(13)	0.0185(16)	4.58(3)	0.44(5)
	0.6152	0.0173(11)	0.7851(16)	0.0311(12)	4.22(2)	0.34(3)
	0.6972	0.0272(19)	0.7374(28)	0.0496(36)	3.79(5)	0.24(3)
	0.7382	0.0401(10)	0.6791(52)	0.0761(15)	3.22(5)	0.15(4)
	0.7793	0.0583(25)	0.6028(61)	0.1204(94)	2.45(12)	0.07(3)

	T^*	p^{s*}	ρ'^*	ρ''^*	Δh_V^*	γ^*
$n = 45$	0.4851	0.0011(3)	0.9451(10)	0.0023(4)	5.41(2)	0.79(7)
	0.5255	0.0026(4)	0.9110(4)	0.0051(6)	5.16(2)	0.67(6)
	0.5659	0.0053(6)	0.8745(10)	0.0100(14)	4.89(2)	0.56(6)
	0.6064	0.0100(6)	0.8342(23)	0.0185(7)	4.56(2)	0.44(3)
	0.6468	0.0167(9)	0.7901(38)	0.0303(25)	4.21(4)	0.34(3)
	0.6872	0.0268(19)	0.7411(37)	0.0495(38)	3.76(4)	0.24(3)
	0.7276	0.0405(11)	0.6824(28)	0.0777(21)	3.18(3)	0.15(2)
	0.7681	0.0578(27)	0.6054(83)	0.1220(91)	2.41(10)	0.07(2)
$n = 48$	0.4789	0.0011(3)	0.9501(8)	0.0023(7)	5.38(1)	0.79(3)
	0.5188	0.0025(5)	0.9157(12)	0.0050(10)	5.14(2)	0.66(8)
	0.5587	0.0052(8)	0.8786(14)	0.0100(13)	4.86(2)	0.55(5)
	0.5987	0.0099(4)	0.8383(14)	0.0184(5)	4.54(3)	0.44(3)
	0.6386	0.0166(12)	0.7935(12)	0.0307(33)	4.17(2)	0.34(4)
	0.6785	0.0269(25)	0.7441(29)	0.0501(72)	3.73(7)	0.23(6)
	0.7184	0.0412(10)	0.6838(42)	0.0829(34)	3.13(5)	0.14(1)
	0.7583	0.0575(18)	0.6099(73)	0.1212(73)	2.43(9)	0.07(2)

Table 2. Parameters for critical properties from Eqs. (14) and (15) fit to the present simulation results.

T_c			ρ_c		
a	1	0.65978	d	1	0.25325
b	$1/n$	$0.69171 \cdot 10^1$	e	$\log(n)$	$0.58291 \cdot 10^{-1}$
c	$1/n^3$	$0.14260 \cdot 10^3$			

Table 3. Parameters for the correlations from Eqs. (9) - (13), adjusted to the present simulation results.

Saturated liquid density		C_1	C'_2	C'_3
α	1	$-0.13398 \cdot 10^1$	$0.15206 \cdot 10^1$	$0.16785 \cdot 10^{-2}$
β	n	$-0.13412 \cdot 10^{-1}$	$0.14540 \cdot 10^{-1}$	
η	$1/n$	$0.36607 \cdot 10^1$	$-0.46863 \cdot 10^1$	0.53675
δ	$\log(n)$	$0.15206 \cdot 10^1$	-0.91705	-0.11174
Saturated vapor density		C''_2	C''_3	
α	1	$-0.32782 \cdot 10^1$	$-0.72676 \cdot 10^{-2}$	
β	n	$-0.24242 \cdot 10^{-1}$		
η	$1/n$	$0.83828 \cdot 10^1$		
δ	$\log(n)$	$0.26264 \cdot 10^1$	0.17001	
Vapor pressure		c_1	c_2	c_3
α	1	$0.65036 \cdot 10^1$	$0.22655 \cdot 10^1$	$0.79367 \cdot 10^{-1}$
β	n	$0.60373 \cdot 10^{-1}$	$0.12654 \cdot 10^{-1}$	$-0.10051 \cdot 10^{-2}$
η	$1/n$	$-0.20838 \cdot 10^2$	$0.30984 \cdot 10^2$	0.31402
δ	$\log(n)$	$-0.38117 \cdot 10^1$	$-0.82858 \cdot 10^{-3}$	
Enthalpy of vaporization		d_1	d_2	d_3
α	1	$-0.20824 \cdot 10^1$	$0.17862 \cdot 10^2$	-0.46053
β	n	$-0.76099 \cdot 10^{-1}$	0.11423	0.11186
η	$1/n$			
δ	$\log(n)$	$0.60306 \cdot 10^1$	$-0.98931 \cdot 10^1$	$-0.53200 \cdot 10^1$
Surface tension		A	B	
α	1	$-0.99270 \cdot 10^1$	$0.12572 \cdot 10^1$	
β	n	$-0.71259 \cdot 10^{-1}$		
η	$1/n$	$0.52405 \cdot 10^2$		
δ	$\log(n)$	$0.87240 \cdot 10^1$		