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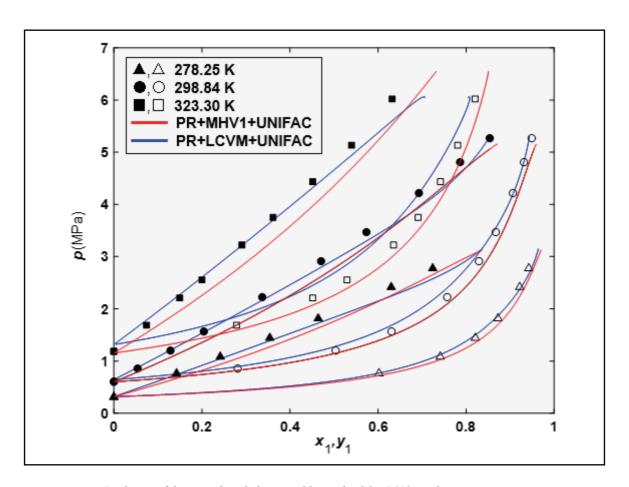
# Predicting vapor-liquid equilibria of CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary mixtures by the PR EOS combined with a group contribution model

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# **Graphical abstract**



Prediction of the vapor-liquid phase equilibrium for  $CO_2+R152a$  at three temperatures.

# **Public summary**

- The prediction accuracy of the PR+LCVM+UNIFAC model for CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary mixtures is more accurate.
- For CO<sub>2</sub>+R32 binary mixtures, the PR+MHV+UNIFAC prediction model has higher calculation accuracy.
- It is further explained that for CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary systems with very different molecular structures, the LCVM mixing rule obtains better results than the MHV1 mixing rule.

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# Predicting vapor-liquid equilibria of CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary mixtures by the PR EOS combined with a group contribution model

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**Abstract:** CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary mixtures have good performance and environmental friendliness and are considered good alternative working fluids in cooling and power cycle systems. The vapor-liquid phase equilibrium properties are key to the calculation of the enthalpy and entropy of mixtures, which is critical for the analysis of cooling and power cycle systems. To accurately predict the vapor-liquid equilibrium of CO<sub>2</sub> and HFC (R23, R32, R41, R125, R134a, R143a, R152a, R161, and R227ea) binary mixtures, a group contribution model based on the excess free energy ( $G^E$ ) mixing rules (PR+MHV1+UNIFAC and PR+LCVM+UNIFAC) is established in this paper. The interaction parameters between groups such as -CO<sub>2</sub>, -Alkane, -CHF, and -CHF<sub>3</sub> are obtained by the vapor-liquid phase equilibrium experiment of CO<sub>2</sub> and HFC refrigerants, and these group parameters are critical for predicting their vapor-liquid phase equilibrium properties (the pressures and vapor phase molar fractions). The AARDp value calculated by the PR+LCVM+UNIFAC model is 5.53%, the value of AADy<sub>1</sub> is 0.0132, and the AARDp and AADy<sub>1</sub> values of the PR+MHV1+UNIFAC model are 7.40% and 0.0229, respectively. However, for the CO<sub>2</sub>+R32 system, the PR+MHV+UNIFAC prediction model can reproduce the experimental data with lower deviations, and the values of AARDp and AADy<sub>1</sub> are 1.53% and 0.0045, respectively. In summary, for CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary mixtures, the PR+LCVM+UNIFAC group contribution model can reproduce the experimental data with lower deviations, but for individual CO<sub>2</sub> binary mixtures (such as CO<sub>2</sub>+R32), the PR+MHV1+UNIFAC model also has unique advantages. According to the prediction results of the group contribution model, the PR+LCVM+UNIFAC model has significantly improved the calculation progress compared with the PR+MHV1+UNIFAC model used in the previous system.

**Keywords:** cooling and power cycles; CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary mixtures; vapor-liquid equilibrium; the group contribution model; PR+MHV1+UNIFAC model; PR+LCVM+UNIFAC model

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#### **Nomenclature**

Symbols	
a	energy parameter, J·cm <sup>3</sup> ·mol <sup>-2</sup>
b	covolume, cm³·mol⁻¹
$f_i$	the fugacity of the component <i>i</i>
$G^{\scriptscriptstyle m E}$	excess free energy
M	number of CO <sub>2</sub> -based binary mixtures
p	pressure, MPa
PR	Peng and Robinson
HV	Huron-Vidal mixing rule
MHV1	Modified Huron-Vidal-1 mixing rule
MHV2	Modified Huron-Vidal-2 mixing rule
WS	Wong-Sandle mixing rule
LCVM	Linearity combine Huron-Vidal and Modified Huron-Vidal-1 mixing rule
UNIFAC	Original Group Contribution Model
UNIQUAC	Gibbs Excess Model
PSRK	Predictive Soave-Redlich-Kwong
VTPR	Volume-translated Peng-Robinson
NRTL	Non-Random Two-Liquid activity coefficient model
$rac{Q_k}{R_k}$	area parameters of the group
$R_k$	volume parameters of the group
R	universal gas constant, 8.314472 J·mol <sup>-1</sup> ·K <sup>-1</sup>
T	temperature, K
$\boldsymbol{x}$	mole fraction of liquid phase
y	mole fraction of vapor phase
v	molar volume (cm³-mol -1)

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bbreviations	3
AARDp	average absolute relative deviation of pressure
$AADy_1$	average absolute deviation of vapor phase molar fraction
EOS	equations of state
GWP	global warming potential
HFCs	hydrofluorocarbons
ODP	ozone depletion potential
OF	objective function
VLE	vapor-liquid equilibrium
$CO_2$	carbon dioxide
R125	pentafluoroethane
R134a	1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane
R143a	1,1,1-trifluoroethane
R152a	1,1-difluoroethane
R161	fluoroethane
R23	trifluoromethane
R227ea	1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane
R32	difluoromethane
R41	fluoromethane

k letters	
$\alpha(T)$	temperature-dependent alpha function
/	activity coefficient
ω	acentric factor

Subscripts	
cal	calculated value
exp	experimental value
pre	predicted value

#### 1 Introduction

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is widely used as a working medium in refrigeration cycles, power cycles, supercritical Brayton cycles, and other applications due to its high thermal stability, natural working fluid, safety, environmental protection, and high energy density to achieve miniaturization of components[1,2]. However, CO2 is a working medium with the disadvantages of high operating pressure and low system thermal efficiency during system operation. Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants are highly thermally efficient in refrigeration cycles and power cycles but have high ozone depletion potential (ODP) and global warming potential (GWP)[3]. Mixing CO<sub>2</sub> with other HFC refrigerants (with low GWP, zero ODP, and no toxicity) is one of the prospective ways to gain the advantages of CO<sub>2</sub> and minimize its disadvantages. CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary mixtures can not only reduce operating pressure and improve system thermal efficiency but also reduce the ODP value and GWP value<sup>[4]</sup>. Due to this good performance and environmental friendliness, CO2+HFC refrigerant binary mixtures have received extensive attention and

research as alternative working media in refrigeration cycles and power cycles<sup>[5]</sup>.

The vapor-liquid phase equilibrium (VLE) data are key to the calculation of the enthalpy and entropy of CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC refrigerant binary mixtures, which is critical for the analysis of refrigeration cycles and power cycles. Due to the simplicity of the form and the accuracy of the calculation of the cubic equation of state, it is widely used in the simulation and calculation of the thermophysical properties of various working fluids<sup>[6]</sup>. For CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC refrigerant binary mixtures, the cubic equation (Peng-Robinson equation<sup>[7]</sup>) of state must be combined with the mixing rules to predict the vapor-liquid phase equilibrium properties. At present, there are many concerns and studies on the mixing rule. In general, the mixing rule is mainly divided into excess free energy mixing rules<sup>[8]</sup> and van der Waals<sup>[9]</sup> mixing rules.

Due to the simplicity of the form and the accuracy of the calculation, the cubic equation of state with mixing rules is widely studied in VLE properties. In the mixing rules, the cubic equations of state have a continuous and consistent description of supercritical and subcritical regional components, but the prediction accuracy of complex systems (such as highly nonideal systems and strong polarity systems) is not advanced, while the activity coefficient model has very good descriptive ability for highly nonideal systems and strong polarity systems but only for low-pressure conditions. Therefore, combining these two approaches to form an EOS/ $G^{\rm E}$  model can play to their respective advantages and establish a broader range of mixing rules<sup>[6]</sup>.

The mixing rules of the excess gibbs free energy mainly include the HV<sup>[10]</sup> mixing rules, WS<sup>[11]</sup> mixing rules, MHV1<sup>[12]</sup> mixing rules, MHV2<sup>[13]</sup> mixing rules, and LCVM<sup>[14]</sup> mixing rules. The activity coefficient is the key to calculating the mixing rules. Many activity coefficient models have been proposed, such as Wilson<sup>[15]</sup>, NRTL<sup>[16]</sup>, and the group contribution model (such as UNIQUAC<sup>[15]</sup> and UNIFAC<sup>[17]</sup>). The group contribution model mainly includes original UNIFAC and modified UNIFAC (Dortmund)<sup>[18-21]</sup>, PSRK<sup>[22-25]</sup>, and VTPR<sup>[26-28]</sup>, which have been widely used to predict the VLE properties of binary mixtures<sup>[6]</sup>.

At present, there are some studies on the group contribution theory based on CO<sub>2</sub>-based binary mixtures. Hou et al.[29] used the MHV1+UNIFAC group contribution model to predict the vapor-liquid phase equilibrium properties of CO<sub>2</sub> and five HFC refrigerants, with high prediction accuracy. Gao et al.[30] used the MHV1+UNIFAC and MHV2+UNIFAC group contribution models to predict the VLE properties of CO<sub>2</sub>+ hydrocarbons, but the prediction accuracy was poor. Horstman et al.[31] used the PRSK group contribution model to predict the VLE properties of CO<sub>2</sub>+n-alkane. Schmid et al. [28] used the VTPR group contribution model to predict the vaporliquid phase equilibrium properties of CO<sub>2</sub>+CH<sub>4</sub>. The prediction accuracy was high, but only the CO<sub>2</sub>+CH<sub>4</sub> working medium was not representative. In summary, the LCVM+UNI-FAC group contribution model has not been used to predict the vapor-liquid phase equilibrium properties of CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary mixtures. Since vapor-liquid phase equilibrium experiments require considerable time and effort, it is also of great significance to propose a prediction model suitable for CO<sub>2</sub>



binary mixtures.

In this work, based on the background of the power cycle of CO<sub>2</sub> binary mixtures, the experimental vapor-liquid phase equilibrium data of 9 CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary mixtures were collected, including CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC (R23, R32, R41, R125, R134a, R143a, R152a, R161, R227ea). Based on the group contribution model (UNIFAC), the VLE data of these 9 binary mixtures were predicted by using the PR equation combined with two different forms of mixing rules (MHV1 and LCVM<sup>[14]</sup>). By comparing the predicted values with the experimental values published in the literature, the relative deviation between the prediction results and the experimental results is obtained to analyze and discuss the applicability of different mixing rules to various types of CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary mixtures.

# 2 Thermodynamic equations

#### 2.1 PR equation of state

Peng and Robinson<sup>[7]</sup> proposed the PR equation of state in 1976, which can be used to predict the VLE properties of CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC refrigerant binary mixtures.

$$p = \frac{RT}{v - b} - \frac{a}{v(v + b) + b(v - b)},\tag{1}$$

where R represents the universal gas constant (8.314472 J·mol<sup>-1</sup>·K<sup>-1</sup>); T is the temperature (K); v is the molar volume (cm<sup>3</sup>·mol<sup>-1</sup>); and p is the pressure (MPa).

The two parameters a and b represent the energy parameter (J·cm³·mol⁻²) and covolume (cm³·mol⁻¹), and their expressions are shown:

$$a = 0.45724 \frac{R^2 T_c^2}{n} \alpha(T), \tag{2}$$

$$b = 0.0778 \frac{RT_c}{p_c} \alpha(T), \tag{3}$$

$$\alpha(T) = [1 + (0.37646 + 1.54226\omega - 0.26992\omega^2)(1 - T_r^{0.5})]^2, (4)$$

where  $T_{\rm c}$  and  $p_{\rm c}$  denote the critical temperature (K), and critical pressure (MPa), respectively.  $\alpha(T)$  represents the temperature-dependent alpha function,  $\omega$  is the acentric factor, and  $T_r = T/T_{\rm c}$  is the reduced temperature.

#### 2.2 EOS/ $G^{E}$ mixing rules

#### 2.2.1 HV mixing rule

The first EOS/ $G^{E}$  mixing rule was proposed by Huron and Vidal<sup>[10]</sup>,

$$\frac{a_m}{b_m RT} = \sum_i x_i \frac{a_i}{b_i RT} + \frac{1}{C^{\text{EOS}}} \frac{G^{\text{E}}}{RT},\tag{5}$$

$$b_m = \sum_i x_i b_i, \tag{6}$$

where  $C^{\text{EOS}}$  is a constant related to the state equation; for the PR equation,  $C^{\text{EOS}}$ =-0.62323.  $G^{\text{E}}$  represents the excess Gibbs free energy under infinite pressure, which can be calculated by the activity coefficient model.

#### 2.2.2 MHV1 mixing rule

The MHV1 mixing rule was proposed by Michelse<sup>[12]</sup>, which is an improved mixing rule based on the HV mixing rule.

$$\frac{a_m}{b_m RT} = \sum_i x_i \frac{a_i}{b_i RT} + \frac{1}{q_1} O, \tag{7}$$

$$b_m = \sum_i x_i b_i, \tag{8}$$

$$O = \frac{G^{E}}{RT} + \sum_{i} x_{i} \ln\left(\frac{b_{m}}{b_{i}}\right), \tag{9}$$

where  $q_1$  is a constant related to the state equation; for the PR equation,  $q_1 = -0.528$ .

#### 2.2.3 LCVM mixing rule

Boukouvalas<sup>[14]</sup> found that for some binary systems, the HV mixing rule tends to give a negative bias, while the MHV1 mixing rule gives a positive deviation. Boukouvalas linearly combines two mixing rules to form a new LCVM mixing rule, combined with the UNIFAC activity coefficient model, which gives highly accurate predictions for many systems.

$$\frac{a_{m}}{b_{m}RT} = \left(\frac{\lambda}{C_{\text{HV}}} + \frac{\lambda}{C_{\text{MHVI}}}\right)\frac{G^{\text{E}}}{RT} + \frac{\lambda}{C_{\text{MHVI}}}\sum_{i}x_{i}\ln\left(\frac{b_{m}}{b_{i}}\right) + \sum_{i}x_{i}\frac{a_{i}}{b_{i}RT},$$
(10)

$$b_m = \sum_i x_i b_i, \tag{11}$$

where the value of  $\lambda$  is generally 0.36.  $C_{\rm HV}$  and  $C_{\rm MHV1}$  are constants related to the state equation,  $C_{\rm HV}$ =-0.62323 and  $C_{\rm MHV1}$ =-0.528.

#### 2.3 Activity coefficient model

In 1968, Renon and Prausnitz<sup>[16]</sup> modified the local composition expression of the solution and proposed the NRTL activity coefficient model on the basis of two-fluid theory, which can well describe the phase equilibrium properties of binary systems, and the expressions for common binary systems are

$$\frac{G^{E}}{RT} = x_{1}x_{2} \left( \frac{\tau_{21}G_{21}}{x_{1} + x_{2}G_{21}} + \frac{\tau_{12}G_{12}}{x_{1} + x_{1}G_{12}} \right), \tag{12}$$

$$G_{12} = \exp(\alpha_{12}\tau_{12}), G_{21} = \exp(\alpha_{21}\tau_{21}).$$
 (13)

The UNIFAC<sup>[32]</sup> model is proposed on the basis of the UNI-QUAC<sup>[33]</sup> model, which is used to calculate the activity coefficients for CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary mixtures. The UNIFAC model obtains the interaction parameters between groups by fitting the experimental data and then calculates the activity coefficient of the binary mixture through the interaction parameters.

$$\ln \gamma_i = \ln \gamma_i^{\rm C} + \ln \gamma_i^{\rm R},\tag{14}$$

where  $\gamma_i$  is the activity coefficient of component i;  $\gamma_i^{\text{C}}$  is the combinatorial part; and  $\gamma_i^{\text{R}}$  is the residual part.

The combinatorial part of the activity coefficient is the same as the UNIQUAC model, which depends on the molecule's size and shape.



$$\ln \gamma_i^{\rm C} = \ln \left( \frac{\phi_i}{x_i} \right) + \frac{Z}{2} q_i \ln \left( \frac{\theta_i}{\phi_i} \right) + l_i - \frac{\phi_i}{x_i} \sum_i x_i l_i, \tag{15}$$

$$\phi_i = \frac{x_i r_i}{\sum_i x_j r_j},\tag{16}$$

$$\theta_i = \frac{x_i q_i}{\sum_i x_j q_j},\tag{17}$$

$$l_i = \frac{Z}{2}(r_i - q_i) - (r_i - 1), \tag{18}$$

$$r_i = \sum v_k^{(i)} R_k, \tag{19}$$

$$q_i = \sum_{k} v_k^{(i)} Q_k, \tag{20}$$

where  $\phi_i$  is a section fraction similar to the volume fraction;  $x_i$  denotes the mole fraction;  $\theta_i$  represents the area fraction; Z is the number of coordinates;  $v_k^{(i)}$  is the number of group k;  $r_i$  and  $q_i$  are structural parameters of the pure component; and  $R_k$  and  $Q_k$  are volume parameters and area parameters of the group, respectively.

The residual part of the activity coefficient is the basis for the group contribution model.

$$\ln \gamma_i^R = \sum_i \nu_k^{(i)} (\ln \Gamma_k - \ln \Gamma_k^{(i)}), \tag{21}$$

$$\ln \Gamma_k = Q_k \left[ 1 - \ln \left( \sum_m \Theta_m \psi_{mk} \right) - \sum_m \frac{\Theta_m \psi_{mk}}{\sum_n \Theta_n \psi_{nm}} \right], \tag{22}$$

$$\Theta_{m} = \frac{\Theta_{m} X_{m}}{\sum \Theta_{n} X_{n}},\tag{23}$$

$$X_{m} = \frac{\sum_{i} x_{i} v_{mi}}{\sum_{i} x_{i} \sum_{i} v_{mi}},$$
(24)

$$\psi_{mn} = \exp\left(-\frac{a_{mn}}{T}\right),\tag{25}$$

$$\psi_{nm} = \exp\left(-\frac{a_{nm}}{T}\right),\tag{26}$$

where  $\Gamma_k$  represents the group activity coefficient;  $a_{mn}$  and  $a_{nm}$  are the group partner energy parameters;  $Q_m$  is the area parameter;  $\Theta_m$  is the area fraction; and  $X_m$  denotes the molar fraction of group m.

#### 2.4 Thermodynamic conditions

The thermodynamic condition for the VLE is the equality of the fugacities of each component in each phase, which is expressed as

$$f_i^{\rm L} = f_i^{\rm V},\tag{27}$$

where  $f_i^{\text{L}}$  and  $f_i^{\text{V}}$  represent the fugacity of component i in the

vapor phase and liquid phase, respectively.

Fig. 1 shows the group contribution prediction model that predicts the VLE properties of the binary mixture. Based on the known temperature and liquid phase components and the assumed pressure and vapor phase components, the fugacity, specific pressure and vapor phase components are calculated by the cubic equation of state (PR EOS) combined with the mixing rule (MHV1 and LCVM) and the group contribution activity coefficient model (UNIFAC).

#### 2.5 Objective function

The objective function (*OF*) is expressed as follows:

$$OF = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left( \left( \frac{p_{\exp,i} - p_{\text{cal},i}}{p_{\exp,i}} \right)^{2} + (y_{\exp,i} - y_{\text{cal},i})^{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$
 (28)

where the subscript "cal" indicates the calculated value; the subscript "exp" indicates the experimental value; the subscript "i" indicates component i; p is the pressure; and y is the vapor phase molar fraction. The bubble-point pressure and the vapor phase molar fraction are obtained according to the temperature and liquid phase molar fraction.

AARD
$$p = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left| \frac{p_{\text{exp},i} - p_{\text{cal},i}}{p_{\text{exp},i}} \right| \times 100\%,$$
 (29)

$$AADy_1 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} |y_{exp,i} - y_{cal,i}|,$$
 (30)

where AARDp is the average absolute relative deviation of pressure; AAD $y_1$  is the average absolute deviation of vapor phase molar fractions; and N is the number of experimental data

## 3 Results and discussion

#### 3.1 Prediction model comparison

Table 1 lists the thermodynamic parameters of the working fluid, mainly including critical pressure, temperature, and acentric factors. By referring to the group assignments law of the UNIFAC model, the group assignments of all working fluids are illustrated in Table 2<sup>[29]</sup>.

Table 1. Thermodynamic parameters of the working fluid [6].

No.	Component	$T_{\rm c}({\rm K})$	$p_{\rm c}({\rm MPa})$	$\omega$
	$CO_2$	304.13	7.3773	0.22394
HFCs				
	R23	299.29	4.8320	0.2630
	R32	351.26	5.7820	0.2769
	R41	317.28	5.8970	0.2004
	R125	339.17	3.6177	0.3052
	R134a	374.21	4.0593	0.3268
	R143a	345.86	3.761	0.2615
	R152a	386.14	4.5168	0.2752
	R161	375.25	5.0460	0.2200
	R227ea	374.90	2.925	0.357



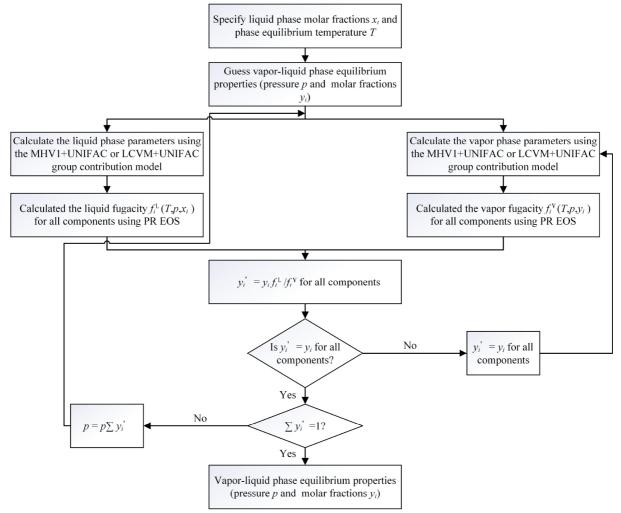


Fig. 1. Flow diagram of the VLE calculation.

Table 2. Group assignment for refrigerants[29].

Main groups	subgroups	$R_k$	$Q_k$
-CO <sub>2</sub>	-CO <sub>2</sub>	1.300	0.982
-Alkane	-CH <sub>3</sub>	0.9011	0.848
	-CH <sub>2</sub>	0.6744	0.540
-CHF	-CH <sub>2</sub> F	1.0699	1.000
	-CHF <sub>2</sub>	1.238	1.232
-CHF <sub>3</sub>	-CF <sub>3</sub>	1.406	1.380
	-CHF <sub>3</sub>	1.6335	1.608
	-CF <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	2.0804	1.920

The group parameters of CO<sub>2</sub> and the group interaction parameters among -CO<sub>2</sub>, -Alkane, -CHF, and -CHF<sub>3</sub> are determined by regressing the VLE data, as shown in Table 3.

The VLE properties of 9 CO<sub>2</sub>+HFCs (R23, R32, R41, R125, R134a, R143a, R152a, R161, and R227ea) were predicted by the PR+MHV1+UNIFAC model and the PR+LCVM+UNIFAC model. Table 4 lists the predicted values and deviations for the group contribution model. Using the PR+MHV1+UNIFAC group contribution model, the value of AARDp is 7.40%, and the value of AADy1 is

**Table 3.** The group interaction parameters<sup>[6]</sup>.

	-CO <sub>2</sub>	-Alkane	-CHF	-CHF <sub>3</sub>
-CO <sub>2</sub>	0	-38.67	641.97	1011.83
-Alkane	719.80	0	480.72	198.36
-CHF	-255.59	50.17	0	2509.83
-CHF <sub>3</sub>	-267.33	108.23	896.52	0

0.0229; using the PR+LCVM+UNIFAC group contribution model, the value of AARDp is 5.53%, and the value of AADy1 is 0.0132. According to the prediction results of the group contribution model, the PR+LCVM+UNIFAC group contribution model has significantly improved the calculation progress compared with the PR+MHV1+UNIFAC group contribution model used in the previous system. However, for CO2+R32 binary mixtures, the PR+MHV+UNIFAC prediction model has higher calculation accuracy, and the values of AARDp and AADy1 are 1.53% and 0.0045, respectively. In summary, for CO2+HFC binary mixtures, the PR LCVM+UNIFAC group contribution model has higher prediction accuracy overall, but for individual CO2 binary mixtures (such as CO2+R32), the MHV1+UNIFAC model also has unique advantages.



**Table 4.** The predicted values and deviations for the group contribution model.

Mixture	MHV1+	UNIFAC	LCVM+U	JNIFAC	N
CO <sub>2</sub> +HFCs	AARDp	$AADy_1$	AARDp	$AADy_1$	
$CO_2 + R23^{[34]}$	8.96%	0.0145	3.04%	0.0083	33
$CO_2 + R32^{[35]}$	1.53%	0.0045	5.70%	0.0079	41
$CO_2 + R41^{[34]}$	4.11%	0.0520	1.50%	0.0077	5
$CO_2 + R125^{[36]}$	10.92%	0.0161	8.13%	0.0022	4
$CO_2 + R134a^{[4,37]}$	6.71%	0.0403	6.79%	0.0320	50
$CO_2 + R143a^{[38]}$	9.20%	0.0152	5.43%	0.0185	51
$CO_2 + R152a^{[39]}$	8.50%	0.0140	4.14%	0.0129	60
CO <sub>2</sub> +R161 <sup>[40]</sup>	5.33%	n.a.	5.37%	n.a.	31
CO <sub>2</sub> +R227ea <sup>[41]</sup>	11.38%	0.0262	9.66%	0.0160	77
Average	7.40%	0.0229	5.53%	0.0132	

# 3.2 Prediction of the vapor-liquid phase equilibrium properties of CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary mixtures

Based on the group contribution prediction model (PR+MHV1+UNIFAC and PR+LCVM+UNIFAC), the vaporliquid phase equilibrium properties of CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary mixtures are predicted. Figs. 2-4 show the vapor-liquid phase equilibrium of CO<sub>2</sub>+R32<sup>[35]</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>+R143a<sup>[38]</sup>, and CO<sub>2</sub>+R152a<sup>[39]</sup> binary mixtures, respectively. It can be seen from the figure that the predictive model (PR+LCVM+UNIFAC) and the known experimental data have a good match. It can be seen from Fig. 2 that the vapor-liquid phase equilibrium properties of the CO<sub>2</sub>+R32 binary mixture are predicted well by the PR+MHV1+UNIFAC group contribution model, which is consistent with the previous calculation results. From Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, the vapor-liquid phase equilibrium of the CO<sub>2</sub>+R143a and CO<sub>2</sub>+R152a binary mixtures predicted by the PR+LCVM+UNIFAC group contribution model is better than that predicted by PR+MHV1+UNIFAC.

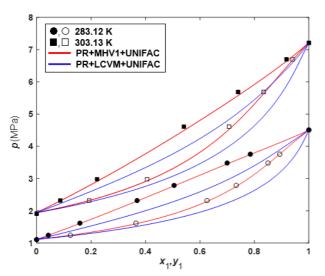
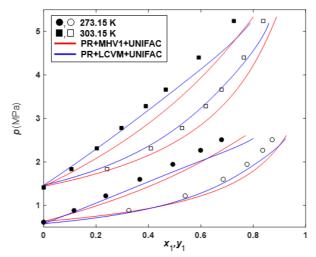
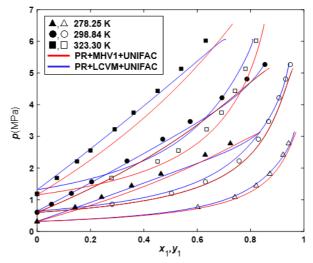


Fig. 2. Prediction of the vapor-liquid phase equilibrium properties for  $CO_2+R32$  at three temperatures. Experimental data<sup>[53]</sup>: T=283.12 K ( $\bullet$ , $\circ$ ); T=303.13 K ( $\bullet$ , $\circ$ ). Solid red line represents the PR+MHV1+UNIFAC model; solid blue line represents the PR+LCVM+UNIFAC model.



**Fig. 3.** Prediction of the vapor-liquid phase equilibrium properties for CO<sub>2</sub>+R143a at three temperatures. Experimental data<sup>[38]</sup>: *T*=273.15 K (●,○); *T*=303.15 K (■,□). Solid red line represents the PR+MHV1+UNI-FAC model; solid blue line represents the PR+LCVM+UNIFAC model.



**Fig. 4.** Prediction of the vapor-liquid phase equilibrium properties for CO<sub>2</sub>+R152a at three temperatures. Experimental data<sup>[39]</sup>: *T*=278.25 K (♠,△); *T*=298.84 K (♠,○); *T*=3323.30 K (■,□). Solid red line represents the PR+MHV1+UNIFAC model; solid blue line represents the PR+LCVM+UNIFAC model.

#### 4 Conclusions

In this work, to accurately predict the VLE of  $CO_2$  and HFC (R23, R32, R41, R125, R134a, R143a, R152a, R161, and R227ea) binary mixtures, a group contribution model based on the excess free energy ( $G^E$ ) mixing rules (PR+MHV1+UNIFAC and PR+LCVM+UNIFAC) is established. Based on the interaction parameters between groups such as  $-CO_2$ , -Alkane, -CHF, and  $-CHF_3$ , the vaporliquid phase equilibrium properties of  $CO_2$  and HFC refrigerants were predicted, and the value of AARDp calculated by the PR+LCVM+UNIFAC model was 5.53%, the value of AAD $y_1$  was 0.0132, and the AARDp value and AAD $y_1$  values of the PR+MHV1+UNIFAC model were 7.40% and 0.0229, respectively. The prediction accuracy of the PR+LCVM+UNIFAC model for  $CO_2$ +HFC binary mixtures



is more accurate. However, for CO<sub>2</sub>+R32 binary mixtures, the PR+MHV+UNIFAC prediction model has higher calculation accuracy, and the values of AADRp and AADy are 1.53% and 0.0045, respectively. In summary, for CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary mixtures, the PR+LCVM+UNIFAC group contribution model has higher prediction accuracy overall, but for individual CO<sub>2</sub> binary mixtures (such as CO<sub>2</sub>+R32), the PR MHV1+UNIFAC model also has unique advantages. It can be seen from the figure that the predictive model (PR+LCVM+UNIFAC) and the known experimental data have a good match. It is further explained that for CO<sub>2</sub>+HFC binary systems with very different molecular structures, the LCVM mixing rule obtains better results than the MHV1 mixing rule.

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### **Conflict of interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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