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Measurements and Correlations of Liquid-liquid-Equilibria of the Mixtures Consisting of Ethanol, Water, Pentane, Hexane, and Cyclohexane

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Abstract: In this study, the liquid-liquid equilibria of the mixtures consisted of ethanol, water, and the main components of gasoline fuel: pentane, hexane, and cyclohexane were experimentally determined. This study is related to the phase behavior when water in atmosphere is absorbed into ethanol + gasoline fuel (gasohol) and then possibly separates into two liquid phases in an automobile fuel tank or an underground storage tank. The liquid-liquid equilibria in this study include three ternary systems: ethanol + water + pentane, ethanol + water + hexane, and ethanol + water + cyclohexane; three quaternary systems: ethanol + water + pentane + hexane, ethanol + water + pentane + cyclohexane, and ethanol + water + hexane + cyclohexane; one quinary system: ethanol + water + pentane + hexane + cyclohexane. The present experiments were conducted at 293.15, 303.15, and 308.15 K, and the experimental data were collected and some were compared to that available in literature, and finally all data were correlated with the UNIQUAC activity coefficient model.

Keywords: Liquid-liquid equilibrium, water, ethanol, hexane, pentane, cyclohexane.

INTRODUCTION

 In order to reduce the green house effect partly caused by burning fossil fuel in transportation vehicles, the gasoline fuel has been blended with pure ethanol produced from bioresource to form the ethanol-gasoline fuel (abbreviated as gasohol) and has been practiced for decades. The gasohol has been successfully used in vehicles in many countries for environmental considerations for decades, particularly in Brazil. The roles, also the advantages, of ethanol in gasohol are: it is one of the constituent components of fuel for vehicle power and is also an additive replacing MTBE or other octane number enhancements which have been prohibited by environment protection regulations. But, a disadvantage of gasohol is that ethanol will absorb moisture from air and possibly causes phase separation of gasohol if water content is beyond a tolerance. And it is obvious that the phase separation could result in a loss of ethanol being used as a power fuel when it is drawn into the aqueous phase. Thus, it is worth studying the phase behavior of the mixture of ethanol, water, and gasoline. Gasoline is not a single component fuel since it contains more than 53 different hydrocarbon compounds. It is impractical and impossible to accomplish the phase study of such multi-component mixture. However, the composition analysis of petroleum gasoline shows that pentane, isopentane, hexane, 2-methylpentane, 3-methylpentane, and cyclohexane as given in Table **1** by the Taiwan CPC, are the major components. Thus, the study of phase equilibria of the mixture of water, ethanol, and the above major components may be a way to give the preliminary

qualitative observation of phase behavior of gasohol and water mixture. In literature, few experimental data of liquidliquid-equilibrium (LLE) of these compounds have been reported. In 1992, the LLE data of ethanol, water, and pentane were reported by Galan, Cayero, and Aguilar [1] for the application to azeotropic distillation process. In 1996 and 2006, the LLE data and correlation of ethanol, water, and hexane mixture were published respectively by Tang and Liu [2] and Xu, Ju, Wang, and Huang [3]. Ross and Patterson [4] reported the LLE data for the mixture of ethanol, water, and n-hexane, and that for ethanol, water, and benzene mixture for the study of surface and interfacial tension of these solutions. The LLE data of ethanol, water, and cyclohexane mixture have been reported by Ju, Xu, Shao, and Ying in 2006 [5]. In 2003 Gramajo de Doz, Bonatti, and Sólimo [6] reported the LLE data of ternary and quaternary of ethanol, water, cyclohexane, and benzene. In 2005, also Gramajo de Doz, Bonatti, and Sólimo [7] reported the LLE data of ethanol, water, benzene, cyclohexane, isooctane, and n-hexane and observed the very small water tolerance and that phase separation could result in a considerable loss of ethanol drawn into aqueous phase. Moriyoshi, Uosaki, Matsuura, and Nishimoto [8] studied the isothermal LLE of ethanol, water, and n-hexane from 0.1 to 200 MPa at 298.15 K. This isothermal investigation is different from the isobaric LLE that most researchers have performed.

 As mentioned earlier, it is impractical and impossible to conduct experiments on the phase equilibrium of ethanol, water, and gasoline mixture. Thus, one way to solve this difficulty is obtaining the phase equilibrium data of mixtures which are qualitatively suitable to represent the original mixture. Table **1** reports there are seven components consisting of more than 85% in composition of a petroleum gasoline and can be considered as the major and important com-

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pounds. In addition, the consideration of physical configuration gives that among these compounds, n-hexane, 2 methylpentane, and 3-methylpentane have very close molecular volume parameter and molecular area parameter, npentane and isopentane are in a different group of these two parameters, and methylcyclopentane and cyclohexane are in another group. It should also be mentioned that the molecular volume and molecular area parameters are two important parameters used for the UNIQUAC model for data correlation. Based on the above considerations and since the constituent components of gasoline are non-polar hydrocarbons, thus, these three compounds, pentane, hexane, and cyclohexane were selected to represent other major components for phase behavior study of mixtures with ethanol and water. This consideration would simplify very much the phase behavior study of the original ethanol, water, and gasoline mixture. Of course, we are aware of that the experimental data of the mixtures in this study cannot exactly agree to that of the original mixture, however, these data are still with thermodynamic significance and would give the preliminary qualitative behavior for understanding this mixture. The experiments of liquid-liquid equilibria conducted at different temperatures in this study include three ternary systems: ethanol $+$ water $+$ pentane, ethanol $+$ water $+$ hexane, and ethanol $+$ water + cyclohexane; three quaternary systems: ethanol + water + pentane + hexane, ethanol + water + pentane + cy $clohexane, and ethanol + water + hexane + cyclohexane; one$ quinary system: ethanol + water + pentane + hexane + cy clohexane.

EXPERIMENTS

Chemicals

The chemicals of ethanol, pentane, hexane, and cyclohexane are GR grade with purity higher than 99.0% and were purchased from the agent of Merck Co. (Germany) in Taiwan. All the chemicals were used without further purification. The deionized water (electric resistance, 18.2 MÙ/cm) was generated from a Minipore distilled water generator.

Experimental Apparatus and Procedure

 The experimental apparatus for the present LLE measurement, as shown in Fig. (**1**), is the one has been used for our previous studies given in the paper of Lee and Huang [9]. A glass cell of 60 cm^3 in volume was immerged in a Neslab thermostat (Model RTE 221) with temperature was controlled to an uncertainty of ± 0.1 K. The temperature of liquid in the cell was indicated by a thermometer (Amarell Co.) with an uncertainty of \pm 0.1 K.

Table 1. The Physical Properties of Seven Major Components in the Gasoline Product of Taiwan CPC Corporation

Component	$Mass\%$	$b.p.(^{\circ}C)$	r	\mathbf{q}
n-hexane	23.1639	69.0	4.998	3.856
n-pentane	21.1063	36.1	3.825	3.316
<i>i</i> -pentane	12.4926	28.0	3.825	3.312
2-methylpentane	10.8865	60.0	4.990	3.852
3-methylpentane	8.7603	63.3	4.990	3.852
methylcyclopentane	5.7051	72.0	4.046	3.236
cyclohexane	2.9426	81.0	4.046	3.240
others	14.9427			

r is the molecular volume parameter and q is the molecular area parameter of a pure component.

1. cell, 2.magnetic stirrer, 3.insulation, 4.thermometer, 5.septum, 6. entry of thermostated water, 7. exit of thermostated water,

8. thermostated syringe, 9. circulating thermostated cell

Fig. (1). Apparatus for liquid-liquid equilibrium experiments. 1. cell, 2. magnetic stirrer, 3. insulation, 4. thermometer, 5. septum, 6. entry of thermostated water, 7. exit of thermostated water, 8. thermostated syringe, 9. circulating thermostated cell.

 The LLE data for all mixtures were obtained as follow. Before each experiment, a sample of a specific composition of ternary, quaternary, or quinary mixture was prepared and then filled up the equilibrium cell which was placed in the thermostat. The mixture in cell was stirred for 2 h and left to settle for another 5 h to attain phase equilibrium. Each time, a sample of $0.5 \mu L$ was withdrawn from cell with a syringe for composition analysis and the results were recorded. After finishing an experiment on a sample, the cell must be thoroughly washed, cleaned, and dried for next experiment. A gas chromatography (GC), a product (Model 9800) of Taiwan Gas Chromatography Co. with a TCD detector was used to analyze all samples. The GC column was a 80/100 Porapak Q, 2.0 m x 1/8 in. The optimum GC operation conditions for the present study were: injection temperature, 200°C; oven temperature, 210°C; detector temperature 220° C; detector current 80 mA; and carrier gas, helium with a flow rate of 30 ml/min. An experimental point was determined by averaging three compositions of GC analysis with deviation less than 0.5% among four injections of a specific composition. In this study, the experimental data were reported with four digits after decimal point. This is the overall uncertainty estimated from the accuracies of measurements and GC analysis.

 Before performing the experiments of this study, a test experiment was run on the LLE of ethanol $+$ water $+$ cyclohexane mixture to ensure the reliability of the apparatus and experimental skill. The results of this test experiment were compared to the literature data of Gramajo de Doz, Bonatti, and Sólimo [6]. Since there is no match between the present and literature data obtained at the same experimental conditions such that the exact comparison between the present and literature data can be made. Thus, Figs. **2** and **3** were drawn to show the good agreement of present experiment and literature data.

Fig. (2). Comparison of LLE data of water-ethanol-cyclohexane ternary mixture in organic phase at 303.15 K, $\frac{3}{2}$, literature data [6]; Δ , experimental data.

Fig. (3). Comparison of LLE data of water-ethanol-cyclohexane ternary mixture in aqueous phase at 303.15 K, iterature data [6]; Δ , experimental data.

THEORETICAL CONSIDERATION AND CORRE-LATIONS

 At liquid-liquid equilibrium of a mixture, the temperature, pressure, and the chemical potential of each constituent species throughout two liquid phases are equal and expressed as

$$
\mu_i = \mu_i'' \qquad i = 1, 2, \dots n \tag{1}
$$

where *i* stands for constituent component *i* in the liquid mixture.

 The thermodynamic relationship between the chemical potential and the liquid fugacity of species *i* was expressed as

$$
d\mu_i = RTd \ln \hat{f}_i^l \qquad i = 1, 2, \dots n \qquad (2)
$$

 The above equation can be integrated from a standard state defined in the later paragraph and obtain

$$
\mu_i^l - \mu_i^\theta = RT \ln(x_i \gamma_i) \qquad i = 1, 2, \dots n \tag{3}
$$

Where μ_i^o is the standard state of species *i*. Thus, the chemical potentials of all species in the present study is represented by Eq. (3)

 For the present study, the standard states of all components were chosen as the pure liquids at system temperature and pressure. Thus, the final equilibrium relation will be in the form

$$
(x_i \gamma_i) = (x_i \gamma_i) \qquad \qquad i = 1, 2, \dots n \tag{4}
$$

 For the correlations of experimental data, the models of NRTL and UNIQUAC were applied at the beginning. But the latter gave the better results than the former, thus, only the correlation results with the UNIQUAC model will be reported. Since the UNIQUAC model can be handily obtained from books and open literature, so it would not be repeated here. After the correlation model was determined, the experimental data were reduced by the maximum likelihood principle, which assumes that the experimental errors were random and independent and has the advantage of accounting for each concerned variable. The objective function for the present correlations of maximum likelihood principle is in the form of

$$
Q = \sum_{n=1}^{NDG} w_n \sum_{i=1}^{NP} \left[\sum_{j=1}^{NC-1} \left(\frac{x_{i,j}^{cal} - x_{i,j}^{exp}}{\sigma_{x,i,j}} \right)^2 \right]
$$
(6)

Where w_n is a weighing factor which was not considered for present systems and $\sigma_{x,i,j}$ is the standard deviation of composition measurements.

EXPERIMENTAL AND CORRELATION RESULTS

 The LLE experiments of the ternary mixtures of ethanol $+$ water $+$ pentane, ethanol $+$ water $+$ hexane, and ethanol $+$ water + cyclohexane were conducted at 293.15 K, 303.15 K, and 308.15 K and the experimental data were reported in Tables **2** to **4**. Since the phase diagrams of the LLE of a ternary mixture at three temperatures of 293.15 K, 303.15 K, and 308.15 K are very similar, thus, only that at 303.15 K was given to depict the phase behavior of this mixture. With this consideration, Figs. **4**, **5**, and **7** were plotted for these three ternary mixtures all at 303.15 K. Among the LLE data of these ternary mixtures, Figs. **2** and **3** are the plots of experimental data and literature data of Gramajo de Doz, Bonatti, and Sólimo $[6]$ of ethanol + water + cyclohexane at 303.15 K already mentioned earlier. Fig. **8** is a phase behavior plot of this mixture at 308.15 K for the present experiment and literature data of Ju, Xu, Shao, and Ying [5]. In this figure, too many points cluster in a small region of cyclohexane rich corner and make it difficult to read, so that an enlargement of an encircled region was made and shows that the present data are more reliable since that of Ju, Xu, Shao, and Ying [5], denoted by empty circles, are not reasonably lying on the $C_6H_{12}-H_2O$ composition line. Fig. 6 compares the experimental and literature data of Xu, Ju, Wang, and Huang $[3]$ of ethanol + water + hexane mixtures. It shows the present data are more reliable than that of literature data since the latter are more scattering and inconsistent as shown in the encircled region. From tables and figures, one can observe that the solubility of water in organic components is very small such that phase separation will take place easily when water moisture in air is absorbed into gasohol and causes the loss of ethanol, which is a fuel for power, from organic phase into aqueous phase.

 While doing the correlations of ternary mixtures, it was observed that all the pair interaction parameters determined directly from experimental data of ternary mixtures would not give better results than that determined from the binary mixtures. Thus, in this study, part of the pair interaction parameters are from literature and part were determined from present ternary experimental data if literature parameters are not available. In order to avoid too many tables in text, here, only the pair parameters of ternary mixture at 303.15 K are given in Table **5**. The results of overall correlation of three ternary mixtures are listed in Table **6** showing the root mean square deviation (RMSD) of correlation results of each ternary mixture. Also, the correlation results were plotted along with the experimental data in Figs. **4** to **8**. The good agreement between them is observable in theses figures.

The LLE experiments of quaternary mixtures were conducted for ethanol + water + pentane + hexane, ethanol + water + pentane + cyclohexane, and ethanol + water + hexane + cyclohexane at 293.15 K, 303.15 K, and 308.15 K. The experimental data were given in Tables **7** to **9**. Although, no figures similar to ternary systems can be plotted for quaternary mixtures, however, these tables tell the similar behavior to the ternary mixtures of this study that the solubility of water in organic phase is also very small so that when moisture in air is absorbed into gasohol will easily cause phase separation and further transfer of ethanol from organic phase (used as fuel) to aqueous phase that is a process of losing useful fuel. The binary interaction parameters of the UNIQUAC model for these mixtures at 303.15 K were given in Table **10**. The results of overall correlation of three quaternary mixtures were expressed in RMSD and listed in Table **11**.

 The LLE experiments of quinary mixture of ethanol + water + pentane + hexane + cyclohexane were conducted at 303.15 \hat{K} , and 308.15 K and the experimental data were listed in Table **12**.

Table 3. Experimental LLE Data of Ethanol (1) + Water (2) + Hexane (3) Ternary Mixtures

Table 4. Experimental LLE Data of Ethanol (1) + Water (2) + Cyclohexane (3) Ternary Mixtures

Fig. (4). LLE data of ethanol - water - pentane ternary mixture at 303.15 K. $\frac{m}{2}$, experimental data; Δ , by the UNIQUAC model.

Fig. (5) . LLE data of ethanol - water - hexane ternary mixture at 303.15 K, \equiv , experimental data; Δ , by the UNIQUAC model.

Fig. (6). LLE data of ethanol - water - hexane ternary mixture at 308.15 K. \blacksquare , experimental data; O, data from Xu *et al.* [3]; Δ , by the UNIQUAC model.

Fig. (7). LLE data of ethanol - water - cyclohexane ternary mixture at 303.15 K. **......**, experimental data; Δ, by the UNIQUAC model.

Fig. (8). LLE data of ethanol - water - cyclohexane ternary mixture at 308.15 K. $\frac{m}{2}$, experimental data; O, data from Ju *et al.* [5]; Δ , by the UNIQUAC model.

a from Aspen plus user's manual.

 $RMSD = \left[\sum_{i}^{m} \left(x_i^{\text{exp}} - x_i^{\text{cal}} \right)^2 / m \right]^{1/2}$

 The binary interaction parameters of the UNIQUAC model for this quinary mixture at 303.15 K were given in Table **13**. And the correlated results in RMSD were listed in Table **14**. Similar to quaternary mixtures, drawing a phase diagram of quinary mixture is not possible. However, the data of organic phase show that phase separation takes place at very low water concentration, i.e., the absorption of water moisture from air would easily cause phase separation and the loss of ethanol in the original gasohol. In order to have a better understanding phase behavior of organic and aqueous phases, two pseudo-three-component phase diagrams of $ethanol + water + (pentane + hexane + cyclohexane) were$ drawn in Figs. **9** and **10**, respectively for 303.15 K and 308.15 K. These two figures show that the presence of water will cause phase separation at low concentration of ethanol.

In other words, the more ethanol added to gasohol would favor to maintain this mixture as a homogeneous phase and more efficient to consume ethanol as a fuel.

CONCLUSION

For environmental consideration, bio-product ethanol is added to gasoline as part of fuel. Unfortunately, ethanol will absorb water from air and possibly causes phase separation and the loss of ethanol as fuel by transferring from organic phase to aqueous phase. In order to understand phase behavior of mixture when ethanol is added to gasoline, the related mixtures of ethanol, water, pentane, hexane, and cyclohexane were investigated by experiment at temperatures of 283.15 K, 303.15 K, and 308.15 K. The mixtures include

Table 7. Experimental LLE Data of the Ethanol (1) + Water (2) + Pentane (3) + Hexane (4) Quaternary Mixtures

Table 8. Experimental LLE Data of Ethanol (1) + Water (2) + Pentane (3) + Cyclohexane (4) Quaternary Mixtures

Table 9. Experimental LLE Data of the Ethanol (1) + Water (2) + Hexane (3) + Cyclohexane (4) Quaternary Mixtures

Table 10. The Correlation Parameters of the Uniquac Equation for Quaternary Mixtures at 303.15 K

Table 11. The Over All Deviations (RMSD) of Experimental and Calculated Data of Quaternary Mixtures

 \mathbf{r}

Organic Phase			Aqueous Phase				
Δx_1	Δx_2	Δx_3	Δx_4	Δx_1	Δx_2	Δx_3	Δx_4
			Ethanol (1) + Water (2) + Pentane (3) + Cyclohexane (4)				
			293.15 K				
0.0004	0.0002	0.0004	0.0002	0.0006	0.0004	0.0011	0.0011
			303.15 K				
0.0004	0.0002	0.0003	0.0003	0.0015	0.0013	0.0024	0.0009
			308.15 K				
0.0010	0.0010	0.0013	0.0007	0.0010	0.0010	0.0024	0.0020
			Ethanol (1) + Water (2) + Hexane (3) + Cyclohexane (4)				
			293.15 K				
0.0007	0.0002	0.0007	0.0004	0.0006	0.0005	0.0008	0.0014
			303.15 K				
0.0003	0.0001	0.0003	0.0002	0.0007	0.0006	0.0008	0.0014
			308.15 K				
0.0010	0.0004	0.0011	0.0007	0.0010	0.0011	0.0006	0.0018

Table 12. Experimental LLE Data of Ethanol (1) + Water (2) + Pentane (3) + Hexane (4) + Cyclohexane (5) Quinary Mixtures

Table 11. contd….

 $RMSD = \left(\sum_i (x_i^{\exp} - x_i^{cal})\right)/m$

Table 12. Contd….

Table 13. The Correlation Parameters of the Uniquac Equation of Quinary Mixture at 303.15 K

Table 14. The Overall Deviations (RMSD) of Experimental and Calculated Data of Ethanol (1) + Water(2) + Pentane (3) + Hexane (4) + Cyclohexane (5) Quinary System

Fig. (9). Pseudo-three-component LLE diagram of ethanol-water-(pentane + hexane + cyclohexane) system at 303.15 K.

Fig. (10). Pseudo-three-component LLE diagram of ethanol-water-(pentane + hexane + cyclohexane) system at 308.15 K.

three ternary of ethanol + water + pentane, ethanol + water + hexane, and ethanol $+$ water $+$ cyclohexane, three quaternary of ethanol + water + pentane + hexane, ethanol + water + pentane + cyclohexane, and ethanol + water + hexane + cy clohexane, and one quinary of all compounds listed above. The experimental data were reported and fairly correlated with the UNIQUAC model. The phase diagrams of ternary mixtures were also plotted with available literature data for comparison. In addition, the pseudo-phase diagrams of etha $nol + water + (pentane + hexane + cyclohexane)$ at 303.15 K and 308.15 K were drawn.

 The experimental data show that the solubility of water in organic phase is very small such that when moisture in air is absorbed into gasohol will easily cause phase separation and further transfer ethanol from organic phase to aqueous phase that is a loss of useful fuel. The way to avoid phase separation is preventing from contacting with air as possible as one can or increasing the ethanol concentration, i.e., adding more ethanol to gasoline. But there is a limitation of ethanol content in gasoline fuel attributed to the practical mechanical design of engine.

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