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**Development of a solution model to correlate solubilities of inorganic compounds in water vapor under high temperatures and pressures**

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## **Abstract**

A solution model, based on the regular solution theory coupled with Flory-Huggins entropy term, was developed for the calculation of solubilities of inorganic compounds in water vapor under high temperatures and pressures. The solubilities of sodium chloride (NaCl), potassium hydroxide (KOH), sodium sulfate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), lead oxide (PbO), silicon oxide ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ), lithium nitrate ( $\text{LiNO}_3$ ), sodium nitrate ( $\text{NaNO}_3$ ) and potassium nitrate ( $\text{KNO}_3$ ) were correlated by optimizing internal energies and molar volumes of inorganic compounds which give their solubility parameters.

Keywords : solubility, water, salt, inorganic compound, regular solution theory

## **1. Introduction**

The solubilities of inorganic salts at high temperature and pressure in water vapor are important in the field such as SCWO (supercritical water oxidation) technology. SCWO is an emerging technology for the treatment of the organic wastes. The properties of water above its critical point (647K, 22.1MPa) bring about rapid and complete decomposition of such wastes. In the SCWO process, when organic compounds including halogen are decomposed, hydrogen halides cause remarkable corrosion of the reactor. In order to prevent the corrosion, alkalis are added as a neutralization reagent. As a result, inorganic salts such as NaCl and  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  precipitate and cause plugging of the reactor. For effective discharge of these inorganic salts from the reactor, their solubility data in water are very important to design the

SCWO process [1]. In this study, therefore, a solution model was proposed to estimate the solubilities of inorganic salts and other inorganic compounds.

## 2. Solutions model

### 2.1 Approximation of solubility

The phase equilibria between solid and dense fluid phases can be approximated as the solid-liquid equilibria. Therefore, the solubility of a solid solute in a compressed fluid can be expressed by the following model which is derived from the regular solution theory and the athermal solution theory [2-3].

$$\ln y_2 = \frac{\Delta h_2^m}{RT} \left( \frac{T}{T_2^m} - 1 \right) - \frac{v_2}{RT} (\delta_1 - \delta_2)^2 - 1 + \frac{v_2}{v_1} - \ln \frac{v_2}{v_1} \quad (1)$$

where subscripts 1 and 2 respectively denote water and solute and  $\Delta h^m$  and  $T^m$  indicate the heat of fusion and the melting point. They are listed in Table 1. Further,  $v$  and  $\delta$  represent the molar volume and the solubility parameter.

### 2.2 Solubility parameter of water

The solubility parameter of liquid water was evaluated by the following expression according to Sagara et al. [4].

$$\delta_1 = \frac{\sqrt{6v_1^s \varepsilon_{11} N_A}}{v_1} \quad (2)$$

where  $v_1^s$  is the solid molar volume of water ( $v_1^s = 1.963 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3/\text{mol}$ ),  $\varepsilon_{11}$  is the pair potential energy, and  $N_A$  is the Avogadro's number. The value of  $\varepsilon_{11}$  was determined by using the approach proposed by Sagara et al. [4]. Namely, the solubility parameter given by

Eq. (2) was fitted to the experimental solubility parameter:

$$\delta_1 = \sqrt{\left( \frac{\Delta h_1^{vap} / RT}{Z_1^V - Z_1^L} - 1 \right) (Z_1^V / Z_1^L) P_1^s} \quad (3)$$

where  $\Delta h_1^{vap}$  and  $P_1^s$  denote the heat of vaporization and the saturated vapor pressure of water, respectively. Further,  $Z_1^V$  and  $Z_1^L$  are the compressibility factors of water in vapor and liquid phases, respectively.

The calculated result by Eq. (2) was fitted to the experimental value given by Eq. (3) at  $T_r = 0.7$  to evaluate the value of  $\varepsilon_{11}$ .  $T_r = 0.7$  was selected by Sagara et al. [4] as a standard temperature to obtain a reliable parameter for wide range of temperature including near critical temperature. The calculated results of solubility parameters as a function of temperature and the value of  $\varepsilon_{11}$  which is divided by the Boltzmann's constant  $k$  are shown in Fig. 1. This figure shows the comparison of the calculated solubility parameters of water by Eq. (2) with the experimental data by Eq. (3). In the present solution model, the solubility parameters of water were obtained by Eq. (2) and the unknown variable, the pair potential energy, was determined using the experimental data by Eq. (2). Eq. (2) can give the solubility parameters of water as a function of molar volume at given temperature and pressure. In this work, therefore, Eq. (2) was extended to the vapor region. The molar volume of water vapor,  $v_1$ , was calculated by IAPWS-IF97 [5].

### 2.3 Solubility parameters of inorganic compounds

On the other hand, the solubility parameter of solute is given by the following equation [6]:

$$\delta_2 = \sqrt{\Delta u_2 / v_2} \quad (4)$$

where is  $\Delta u_2$  the cohesive energy due to intermolecular potential energy.

#### 2.4 Molar volume of solid solute in dense fluid

Iwai et al. [7] have empirically presented the following relation between the molar volume of solute  $v_2$  and the density of supercritical fluid  $\rho_1$  as

$$\ln v_2 = \alpha_2 \ln \rho_1 + \beta_2 \quad (5)$$

where  $\Delta u_2$  in Eq.(4) and  $\alpha_2, \beta_2$  in Eq.(5) are considered as adjustable parameters. As fewer number of parameters will be convenient for the industrial application, so  $\alpha_2$  is set to a constant value.

### 3. Results and Discussion

The values of parameters fitted for inorganic salts and other inorganic compounds are listed in Table 2. The correlated results for the solubilities of NaCl, KOH, SiO<sub>2</sub> and NaNO<sub>3</sub> are shown in Figs. 2 - 5. The solubilities of LiNO<sub>3</sub>, NaNO<sub>3</sub> and KNO<sub>3</sub>, which have the same anion, are compared at 748 K in Fig. 6. LiNO<sub>3</sub> shows the highest solubility in water vapor among the inorganic compounds containing NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>. Furthermore, the comparison of the solubility parameters was examined by the deviations of the solubility parameters of the inorganic compounds from that of water in Fig. 7. The difference between the solubility parameters of salts and that of water is related to the miscibility of salts in water. When the difference is smaller, the salts become more miscible in water. Fig 7 explains which salt is most miscible in water. These results are consistent with those in Fig.6. It will show the soundness of the present model. The smallest deviation of LiNO<sub>3</sub> proves the highest solubility compared with the inorganic compounds containing NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> such as NaNO<sub>3</sub> and KNO<sub>3</sub>.

Among the present systems,  $\alpha_2$  can be treated as a constant ( $\alpha_2 = -1.0$ ) while  $\alpha_2 = -1.34$  for the solubility correlation of several hydrocarbons in supercritical carbon dioxide [7]. The values of  $\alpha_2$  are the same order of magnitude. Further,  $\beta_2$  is found to be a constant for the given inorganic salts and other compounds. On the other hand, the cohesive energy  $\Delta u_2$  in Eq.4 slightly depends on the temperature as shown in Table 2.

### Acknowledgements

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**Table 1.**  
**Physical properties of inorganic compounds**

Inorganic compound	$T^m$ (K)	$\Delta h^m$ (J/mol)	Reference
NaCl	1074	28158	8
KOH	679	8619	8
Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	1157	23849	8
PbO	1159	25522	8
SiO <sub>2</sub>	1696	7699	8
LiNO <sub>3</sub>	527	25500	9
NaNO <sub>3</sub>	583	16000	9
KNO <sub>3</sub>	610	12000	9

**Table 2.**

**Parameters and AAD (Absolute Average error Deviation) of water(1) + inorganic compound(2) systems (  $\alpha_2 = -1.0$  ).**

Inorganic compound	$\beta_2$	$T(K)$	$\Delta u_2 \times 10^{-4}$ (J/mol)	AAD (%)	Reference
NaCl	-2.62	673	12.62	6.9	10
		723	13.98	56.4	10, 11
		773	14.06	22.2	10, 11
		823	14.74	19.4	10, 11
KOH	-3.55	723	10.53	6.5	12
		748	10.91	5.5	12
		773	11.13	6.5	12
Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	-5.74	773	9.26	20.8	13
PbO	-5.99	673	6.64	9.6	14
		723	6.97	3.1	14
		773	7.41	7.2	14
SiO <sub>2</sub>	-5.74	673	7.60	6.9	14
		773	7.75	6.7	14
LiNO <sub>3</sub>	-2.69	748	15.32	3.7	15
NaNO <sub>3</sub>	-3.35	723	11.14	0.8	15
		748	11.49	2.5	15
		773	11.70	9.6	15
		798	12.09	6.4	15
KNO <sub>3</sub>	-3.49	748	11.12	4.8	15

$$AAD(\%) = 1/N \left( \sum |C^{\text{exp}} - C^{\text{cal}}| / C^{\text{exp}} \right) \times 100,$$

$C$ : Concentration of salt[ppm],  $N$ : Number of experimental data

### **Figure Captions**

Fig. 1. Solubility parameter of water.

Fig. 2. Solubilities of NaCl in water vapor.

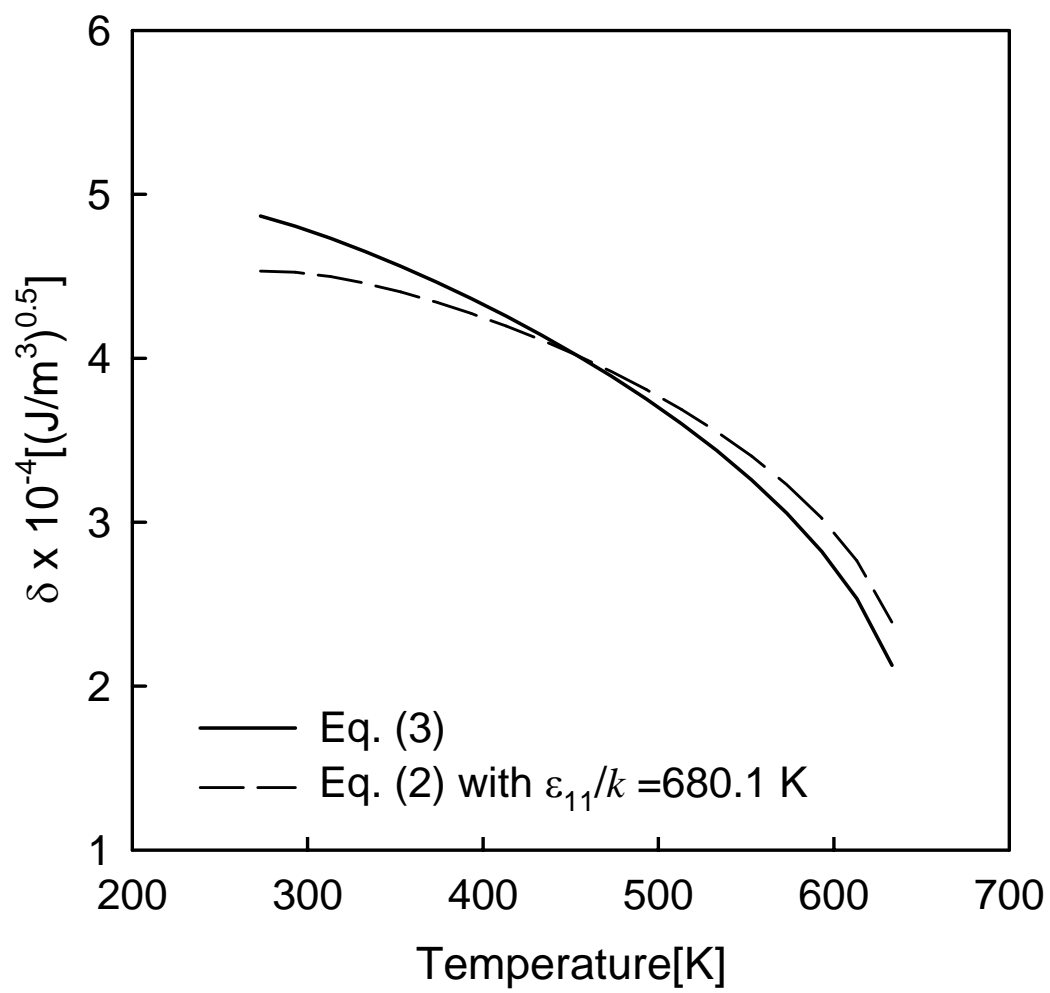
Fig. 3. Solubilities of KOH in water vapor.

Fig. 4. Solubilities of SiO<sub>2</sub> in water vapor.

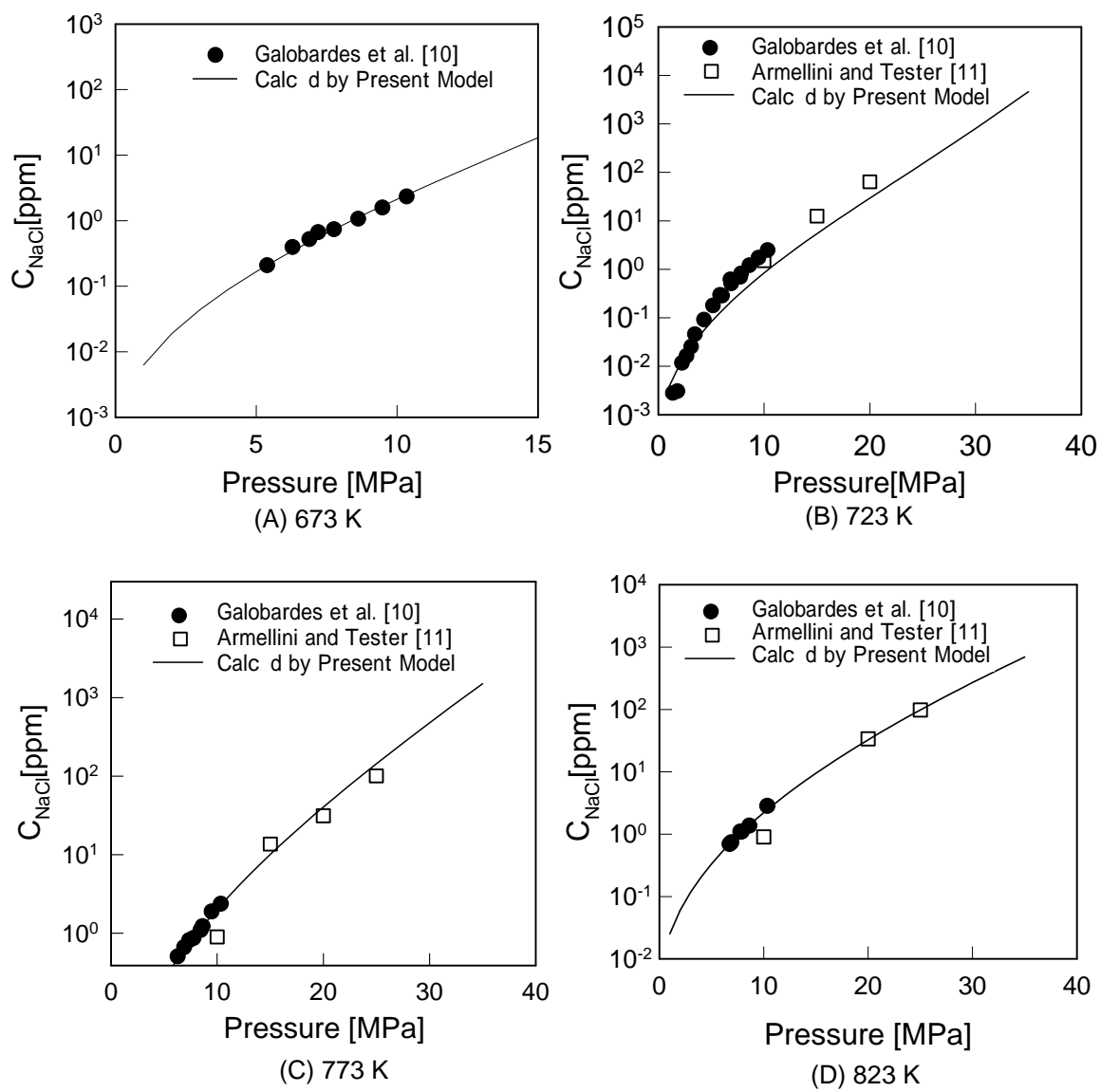
Fig. 5. Solubilities of NaNO<sub>3</sub> in water vapor.

Fig. 6. Comparison of solubilities of KNO<sub>3</sub>, NaNO<sub>3</sub> and LiNO<sub>3</sub> in water vapor  
at 748 K.

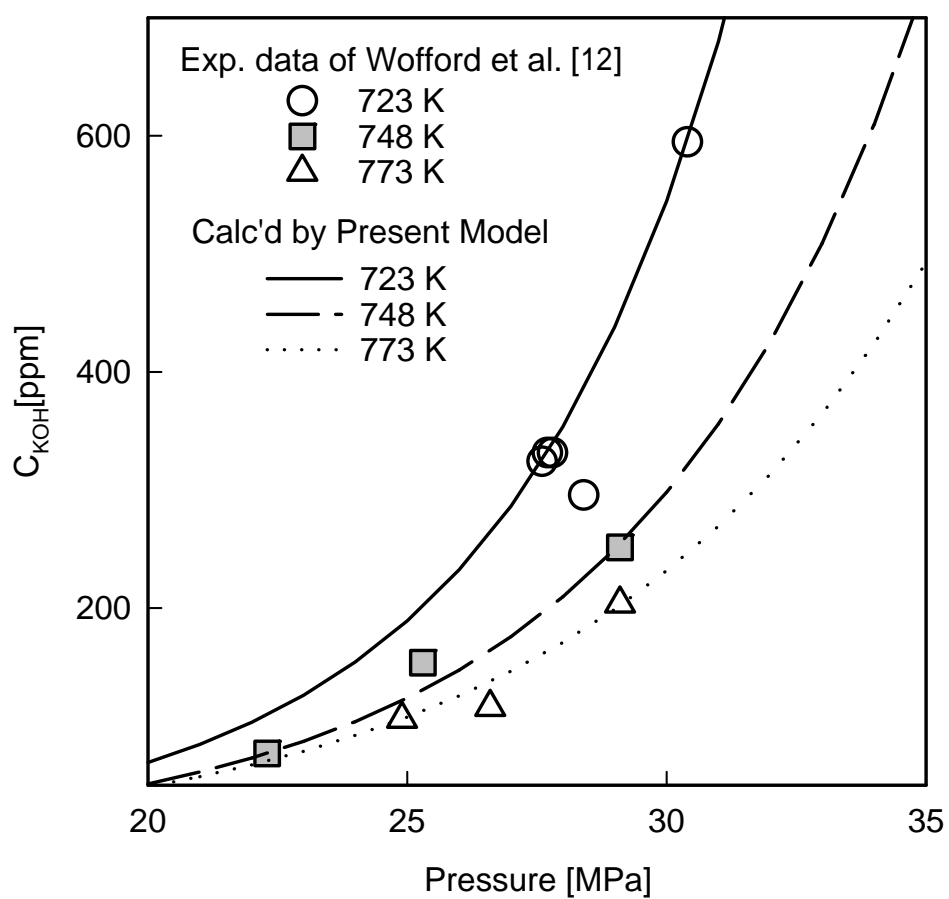
Fig. 7. Comparison of solubility parameters of water, KNO<sub>3</sub>, NaNO<sub>3</sub> and LiNO<sub>3</sub>  
at 748 K.



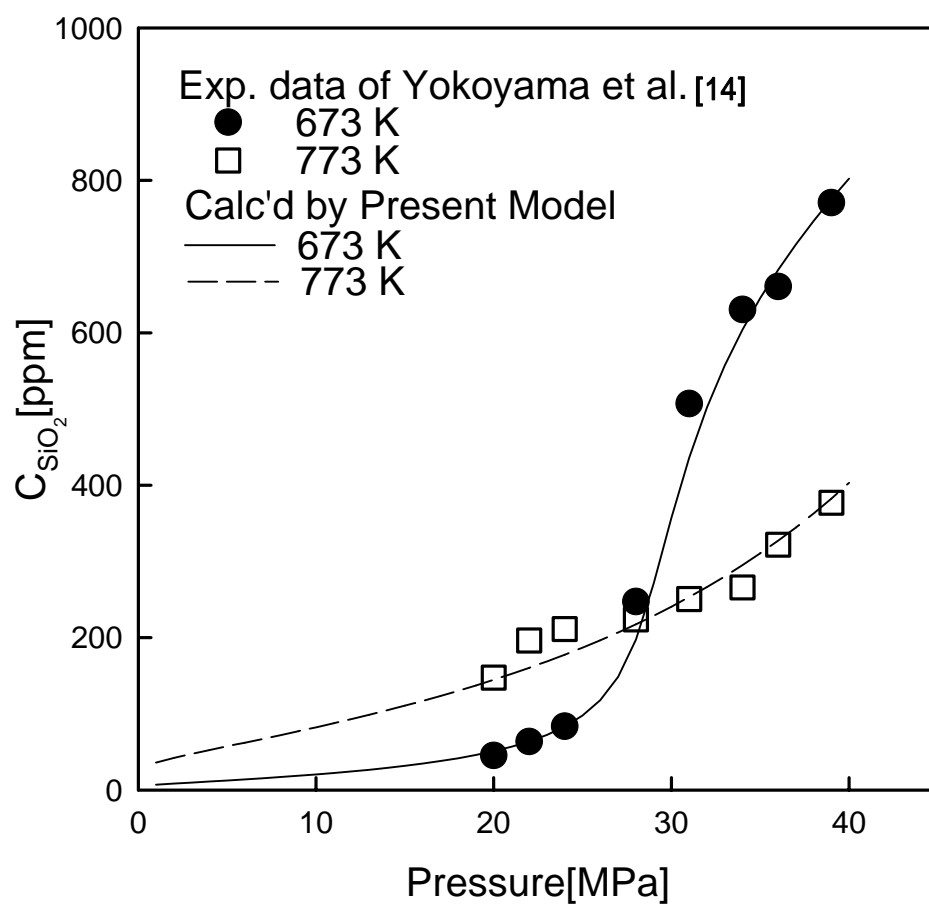
**Fig. 1**



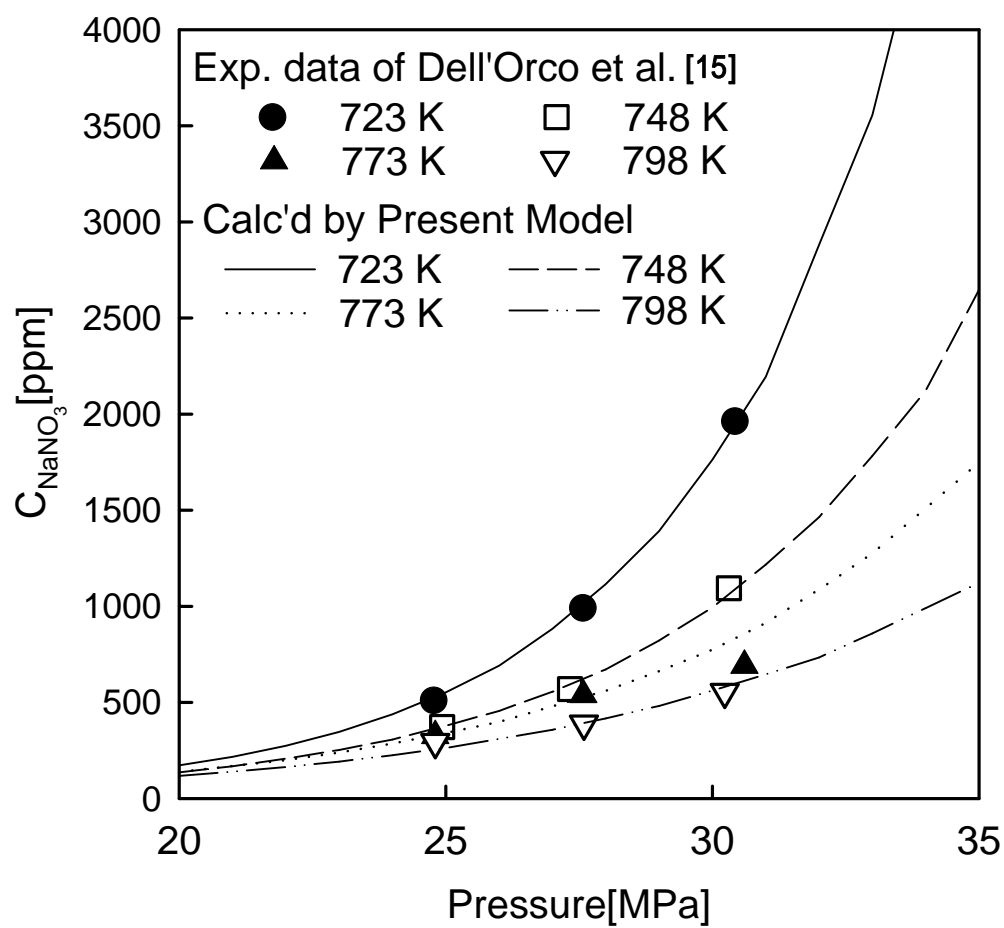
**Fig. 2**



**Fig. 3.**

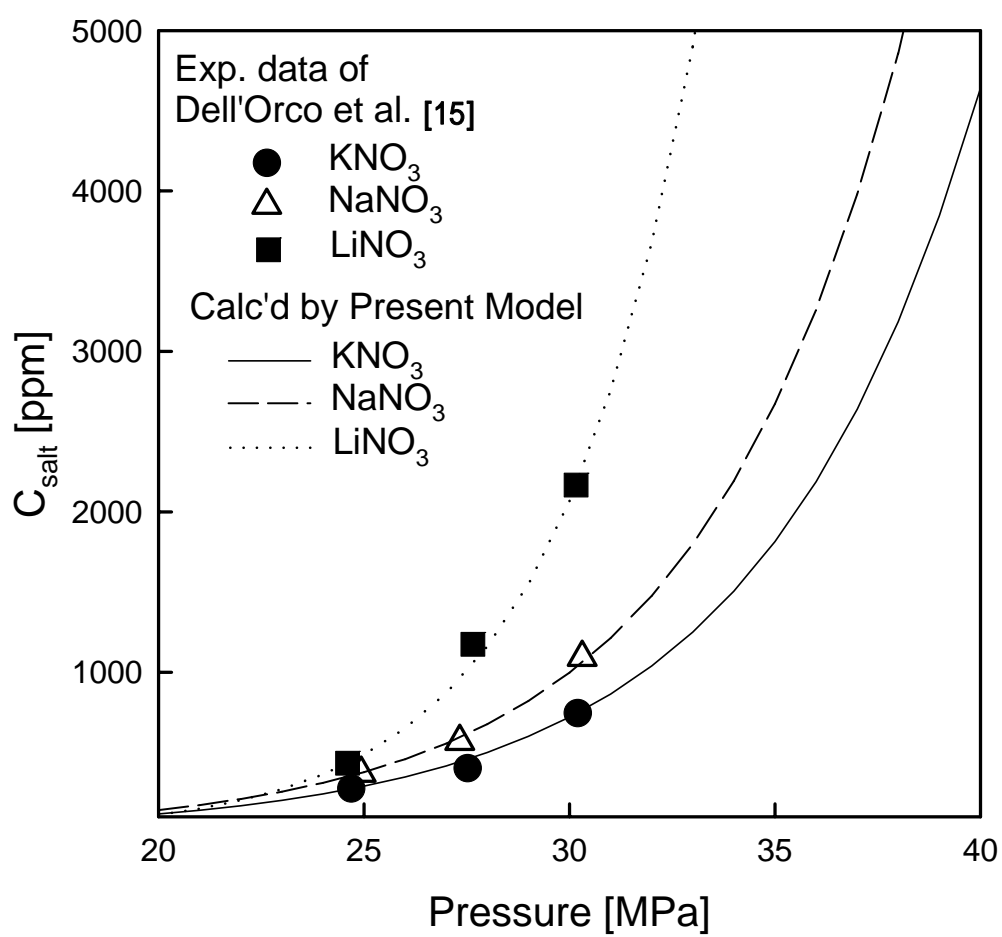


**Fig . 4.**

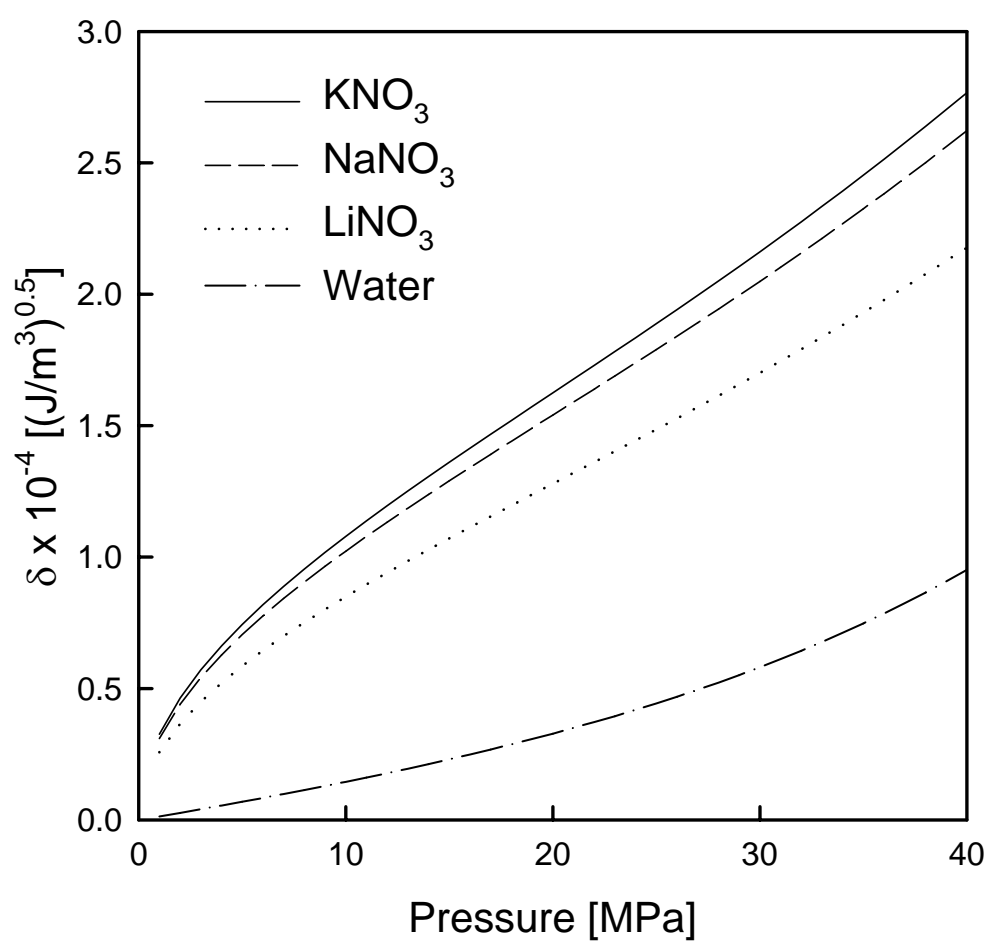


**Fig . 5.**





**Fig . 6.**



**Fig . 7**