Diffusion coefficients of aromatic compounds in supercritical carbon dioxide using molecular dynamics simulation

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https://hdl.handle.net/2324/12528
Diffusion Coefficients of Aromatic Compounds in Supercritical Carbon Dioxide

Using Molecular Dynamics Simulation

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NVT ensemble molecular dynamics (MD) simulation using a leap-frog algorithm has been applied to calculate the diffusion coefficients of aromatic compounds in supercritical carbon dioxide under the infinite dilution condition. The Lennard-Jones (12-6) potential function was used as a intermolecular potential. The calculated results show good agreement with the experimental data, by using the intermolecular interaction parameters between unlike molecules which are determined by Monte Carlo (MC) simulation to give good representation for the solubility data of aromatic compounds in supercritical carbon dioxide.

Keywords: computer simulation, molecular dynamics, diffusion coefficient, aromatic compound, supercritical carbon dioxide

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Introduction
One of important physical properties needed for the design of supercritical extractor, separator and reactor is the diffusion coefficients of solutes in supercritical fluids. However, measurement of diffusion coefficients under the supercritical conditions are very difficult so that the diffusion coefficient data in the supercritical region are quite limited. Computer simulation may be feasible and helpful to obtain thermodynamic data for mixtures under high pressure. In a previous work [1], the authors have applied molecular dynamics (MD) simulation to calculate the diffusion coefficients of naphthalene and 2-naphthol in supercritical carbon dioxide under the infinite dilution condition. In this work, as an extension, the diffusion coefficients of dimethynaphthalene isomers, phenol, phenanthrene, and pyrene in supercritical carbon dioxide were calculated by the same method.

**Methods**

**Intermolecular Potential Function.**

For all particles in the present study, the Lennard-Jones (12-6) potential function was used

\[
\phi(r_{ij}) = 4\varepsilon_{ij}\left\{\left(\frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}}\right)^{12} - \left(\frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}}\right)^{6}\right\}
\]

where \(\phi\) is the intermolecular potential, \(\varepsilon\) is the energy parameter, \(\sigma\) is the size parameter, \(r\) is the molecular distance, and \(i\) and \(j\) denote the particles \(i\) and \(j\), respectively.

The interaction parameters between supercritical carbon dioxide(1) and aromatic compound(2) are given as

\[
\varepsilon_{12} = (1 - k_{12})\left(\varepsilon_{11}\varepsilon_{22}\right)^{1/2}
\]

and

\[
\sigma_{12} = (1 - l_{12})\left(\sigma_{11} + \sigma_{22}\right)/2
\]
where \( k_{12} \) and \( l_{12} \) are the intermolecular interaction parameters between unlike molecules.

**Intermolecular Potential Parameters.**

In this work, the potential parameters of carbon dioxide were determined to represent the \( PVT \) data of pure carbon dioxide proposed by Angus et al. [2]. \( NVT \) ensemble MD simulation using a leap-frog algorithm with the constraint method for constant temperature proposed by Brown and Clark [3] was applied to calculate the pressure of pure carbon dioxide. The pressures \( P \) can be calculated from

\[
P = \frac{NkT}{V} - \frac{1}{3V} \left( \sum_{i<j} \sum_{j=m} \frac{d\phi(r_{ij})}{dr_{ij}} r_{ij} \right)
\]

(4)

where \( V \) is the volume of the cell, \( N \) is the number of molecules in the cell, \( T \) is the temperature, and \( k \) is the Boltzmann constant. The values of potential parameters adopted are listed in Table 1. The potential parameters of aromatic compounds were calculated by the method proposed by Nicolas et al. [4] using \( T_C \) and \( P_C \) of those compounds [5]. The values of the potential parameters are also listed in Table 1.

**Intermolecular Interaction Parameters.**

The intermolecular interaction parameters \( k_{12} \) and \( l_{12} \) were determined to give good representation of the solubilities of aromatic compounds in supercritical carbon dioxide by using Monte Carlo simulation. Details of the calculation procedure were reported previously [6]. The systems consist of 108 particles of carbon dioxide in a cubic cell with a periodic boundary conditions. The standard Metropolis importance sampling method [7] was used to obtain new configurations. Widom’s test particle method [8] was adopted to calculate the residual chemical potentials for aromatic compounds in supercritical carbon dioxide. After \( 2.0 \times 10^5 \) configurations of carbon dioxide were generated to reach equilibrium condition, a test
particle was tried to place at random locations 50 times for 50 configurations of carbon
dioxide. The length of calculations were $5.0 \times 10^6$ to $1.8 \times 10^7$ configurations of carbon
dioxide. The values of intermolecular interaction parameters at 308.2 K are listed in Table 1.
The calculated results of solubilities for aromatic compounds in supercritical carbon dioxide
at 308.2 K are shown Fig.1.

Calculation of Diffusion Coefficients.

$NVT$ ensemble MD simulation using a leap-frog algorithm with the constraint method for
constant temperature proposed by Brown and Clark [3] was applied to calculate the diffusion
coefficients of aromatic compounds in supercritical carbon dioxide. The time step of the
calculations was 10 fs. The number of equilibration steps was more than $3.0 \times 10^3$ steps and
that of the production steps was $1.0 \times 10^6$ steps. These systems consist of 256 particles. One is
an aromatic compound, and the others (255) are carbon dioxide. So the systems may be at the
infinite dilution condition, and the calculated diffusion coefficients may be considered as the
infinite dilution diffusion coefficients of the aromatic compounds in supercritical carbon
dioxide. They were calculated by mean square displacement (MSD) and velocity
auto-correlation function (VAF),

$$D_{21} = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{1}{6t} \left\langle [r_2(t) - r_2(0)]^2 \right\rangle$$

(5)

$$D_{21} = \frac{1}{3} \int_0^\infty \langle v_2(t) \cdot v_2(0) \rangle \, dt$$

(6)

where $r_2$ is the position, $v_2$ is the velocity of aromatic compound, and $t$ is the time. The
diffusion coefficients calculated by these two methods have been essentially the same.

Results and Discussion
The calculated diffusion coefficients of aromatic compounds in supercritical carbon
dioxide at 308.2 K are shown in Table 2 and Figs.2-5. The 68% confidence intervals of
calculated values are also represented by vertical lines. The 68% confidence intervals were
calculated by the ten samples of diffusion coefficients from every $1.0 \times 10^5$ steps. By using
the intermolecular interaction parameters determined to represent the solubilities of aromatic
compounds in supercritical carbon dioxide, the calculation results show good agreement with
the experimental data. The shapes of aromatic compounds are different from spheres and are
rather planer. It should be noted that the planner molecules can be assumed to Lennard-Jones
particles for calculation of diffusion coefficients for the systems studied here.

Conclusions

In this work, molecular dynamics simulation was performed to calculate the diffusion
coefficients of aromatic compounds in supercritical carbon dioxide under the infinite dilution
condition. By using the intermolecular interaction parameters fitted to the solubilities, the
diffusion coefficients of aromatic compounds in supercritical carbon dioxide can be
calculated by molecular dynamics simulations with a good agreement with the experimental
data. The planner molecules studied here can be approxmated by Lennard-Jones potential
model for calculation of diffusion coefficients.

Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support provided by "Research for the Future"
Program (96P00401), The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. The authors thank the
Computer Center, Institute for Molecular Science, Okazaki National Research Institutes for
the use of the NEC HSP and the Supercomputer Center, Institute for Solid State Physics,
University of Tokyo for the use of the FACOM VPP500. H.U. is the Research Fellow of the
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) for Young Scientists.

References


[16] S.A. Smith, V. Shenai, M.A. Matthews, Diffusion in Supercritical Mixtures: \( \text{CO}_2 + \text{Cosolvent} + \text{Solute} \). J.Supercritical Fluids, 3 (1990) 175.


Table 1  Potential and intermolecular interaction parameters for carbon dioxide(1)-aromatic compound(2) systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Molecule</th>
<th>( \varepsilon/k [K] )</th>
<th>( \sigma [\text{nm}] )</th>
<th>( k_{12} )</th>
<th>( l_{12} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Molar Mass</th>
<th>Appearance</th>
<th>Toxicity</th>
<th>Mutagenicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carbon dioxide</td>
<td>236.1</td>
<td>0.372</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2,6-Dimethylnaphthalene</td>
<td>570.8</td>
<td>0.727</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,7-Dimethylnaphthalene</td>
<td>571.1</td>
<td>0.727</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phenol</td>
<td>514.2</td>
<td>0.547</td>
<td>-0.07</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phenanthrene</td>
<td>650.4</td>
<td>0.764</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyrene</td>
<td>693.0</td>
<td>0.804</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2 Calculated results of diffusion coefficients for aromatic compound in supercritical carbon dioxide at 308.2 K.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aromatic Compounds</th>
<th>$P$ [MPa]</th>
<th>$D_{21} \times 10^8$ [m$^2$s$^{-1}$]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,6-Dimethylnaphthalene</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>0.79</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,7-Dimethylnaphthalene</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phenol</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>1.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>1.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phenanthrene</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>1.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyrene</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>0.76</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 1 Solubilities of aromatic compounds in supercritical carbon dioxide at 308.2 K. Experimental: (-----) 2,6-dimethyl-naphthalene, Iwai et al. [9] and Kurnik et al. [10]; (-----) 2,7-dimethylnaphthalene, Iwai et al. [9]; (——) 309.2 K, phenol, Leer and Paulaitis [11]; (---------) phenanthrene, Bartle et al. [12]; (————) pyrene, Johnston et al. [13]. MC calculations: (□) 2,6-dimethyl-naphthalene; (□) 2,7-dimethylnaphthalene; (□) 309.2 K, phenol; (□) phenanthrene; (□) pyrene.

Fig. 2 Diffusion coefficients of 2,6-dimethyl-naphthalene and 2,7-dimethylnaphthalene in supercritical carbon dioxide at 308.2 K. Experimental: (□) 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene; (□) 2,7-dimethylnaphthalene, Higashi et al. [14]. MD calculations: (□) 2,6-dimethyl-naphthalene; (□) 2,7-dimethylnaphthalene; vertical lines represent fluctuations in calculated results.

Fig. 3 Diffusion coefficients of phenol in supercritical carbon dioxide at 308.2 K. Experimental: (□) Lai and Tan [15]. MD calculations: (□); vertical lines represent fluctuations in calculated results.

Fig. 4 Diffusion coefficients of phenanthrene in supercritical carbon dioxide. Experimental: (□) 308.2 K, Smith et al. [16]; (□) 308.2 K, Akgerman et al. [17]; (□) 303.2 K; (□) 313.2 K, Sassiat et al. [18]. MD calculations: (□) 308.2 K; vertical lines represent fluctuations in calculated results.

Fig. 5 Diffusion coefficients of pyrene in supercritical carbon dioxide. Experimental: (□) 303.2 K; (□) 313.2 K, Sassiat et al. [18]. MD calculations: (□) 308.2 K; vertical lines represent fluctuations in calculated results.
$D_{21} \times 10^8 \text{ [m}^2\text{s}^{-1}]$ vs. $P \text{ [MPa]}$