On the prediction of thermophysical properties of innovative fluids

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1. Project NanoORC
The project NanoORC aims at evaluating the potential of innovative fluids as working fluids for organic Rankine cycles (ORCs) power systems.

The project develops general models for the prediction of the thermophysical and transport properties of innovative fluids. The models will be used to evaluate the performance of new working fluids for the organic Rankine cycle technology.

2. Prediction of thermophysical properties
The thermophysical and transport properties of new working fluids can be predicted based on their molecular structure, and other core properties.

Predicting the properties of new working fluids imposes a compromise between the prediction accuracy and the amount of available information of the working fluid.

NanoORC investigates the combination of different predictive techniques for thermophysical properties to improve the overall accuracy of the predicted values.

3. Pure fluids
The most accepted approaches for property prediction are group contribution methods (GCMs) and quantitative structure–property relationship (QSPR) methods.

GCMs divide molecules in different functional groups for which the contribution to the total value of a specific property is known.

QSPR methods relate a property with molecular numerical features derived theoretically from the chemical structure.

4. Mixtures
The simplest approach to predict the behavior of mixtures of new working fluids consists of weighing the contribution of each component according to their mutual interaction.

Mixing parameters in equations of state represent the mutual interaction (attractive and repulsive forces) of the mixture components’ molecules. The mixing parameters for new fluid pairs can be estimated based on the molecular structure of the components.

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