

- I. Renewable Energy Challenges: the Role of Systems Analysis*
- II. System Analysis of Algae-based Biofuel Manufacturing*
- III. Design of Advanced Heat-transfer fluids for CSP*

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Heat Transfer Fluids (HTF) for Solar Technology

- **Systems**

- Parabolic trough
- Central Receiver

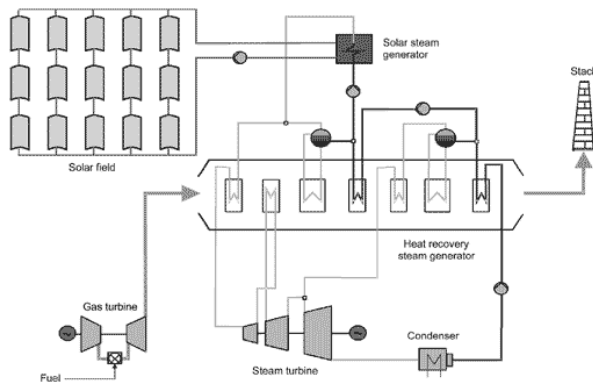
- **Functions**

- Energy storage
- Working fluids

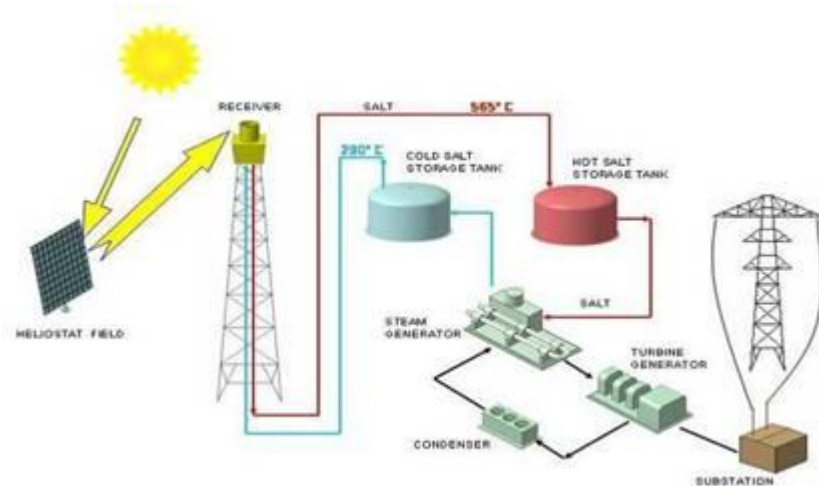


Objective

Provide the lowest cost, highest performing HTF for concentrated solar power.



parabolic trough



central receiver

HTF considerations are numerous

■ Requirements

- ❑ Operating range
- ❑ Transport properties
- ❑ Heat transfer characteristics
- ❑ Corrosion
- ❑ Decomposition

■ Constraints

- ❑ Equipment
- ❑ Cost
- ❑ Experimental data
- ❑ Time
- ❑ etc.

Use of computation to resolve material properties for mixed salts

- Close data gaps
- Explore new candidates
- Expedite search space
- Develop new material models

Thermophysical properties:

$$T_{mp}, C_p(T), k_t, \rho, \eta$$

Multicomponent property predictions

Property target

$\Delta T_{operation}$, $C_p(T)$, k_t , ρ

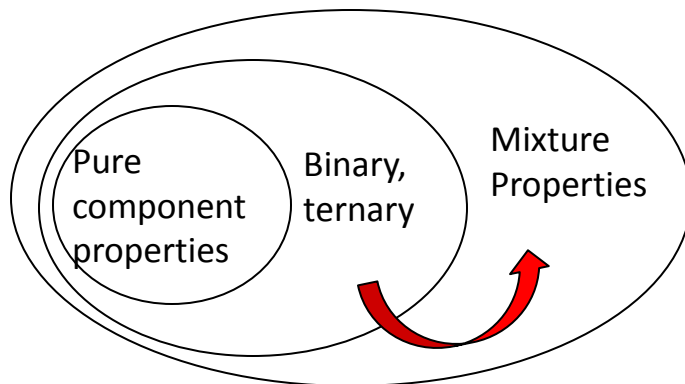


Possible
Candidate salts



Modeling

Experiments



- **Methods**

- Classical thermodynamics
- Atomistic simulations
- etc.

- **Constraints**

- Mass balance
- Laws of thermodynamics

Chemical phase equilibria: liquid to solid

Equality of chemical potential.

$$\mu_i^{\text{solid}} = \mu_i^{\text{liquid}}$$

$$f_i^{\text{solid}} = f_i^{\text{liquid}}$$

$$f_i^{\text{solid}} = \gamma_i x_i f_i^o$$

f_i^o = defined as pure solute i , subcooled liquid at T .

γ_i = activity coefficient of component i

x_i = solubility composition

Free energy change upon melting.

$$\Delta g_i = RT \ln \frac{f_i^o}{f_i^{\text{solid}}} = RT \ln \frac{1}{\gamma_i x_i}$$

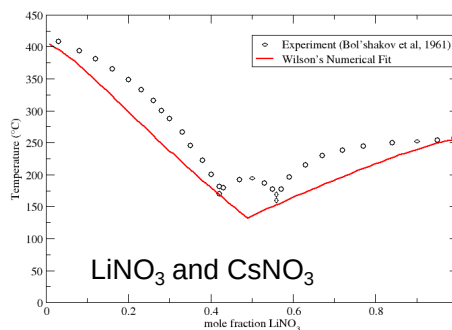
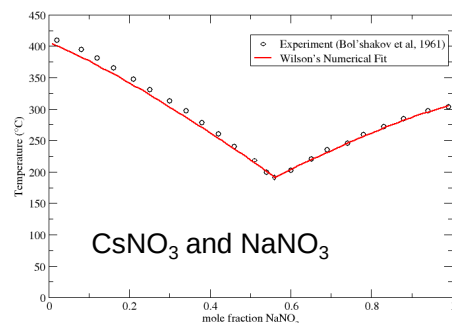
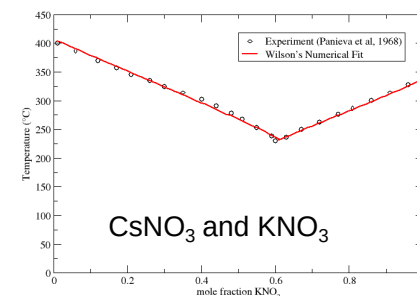
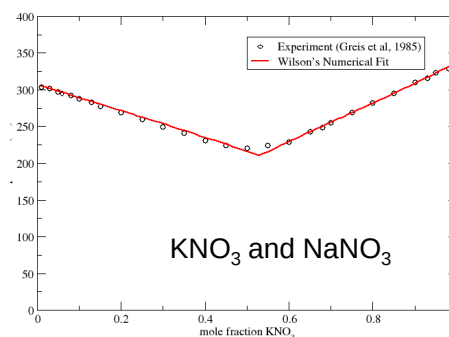
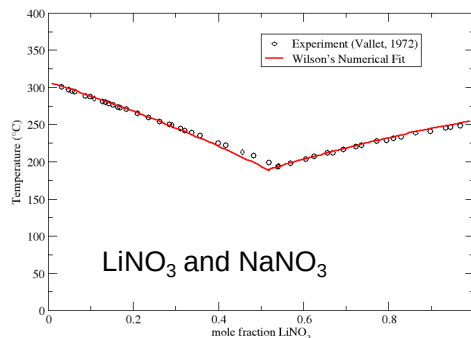
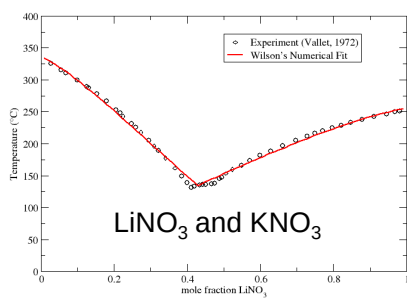
Activity coefficient represented
By Wilson Equation

$$\ln \gamma_k = -\ln \left(\sum_{j=1}^{NC} x_j \Lambda_{jk} \right) + 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{NC} \frac{x_i \Lambda_{ik}}{\sum_{j=1}^{NC} x_j \Lambda_{ij}}$$

$$\Lambda_{ij} = \frac{v_j}{v_i} \exp \left(-\frac{\lambda_{ij} - \lambda_{ii}}{RT} \right)$$

$$\Lambda_{ji} = \frac{v_i}{v_j} \exp \left(-\frac{\lambda_{ji} - \lambda_{jj}}{RT} \right)$$

Tracking liquidus lines based on Wilson Equation



- 1) Use of binary data to fit binary interaction parameters
- 2) Extrapolate to ternary and quaternary phase diagrams.

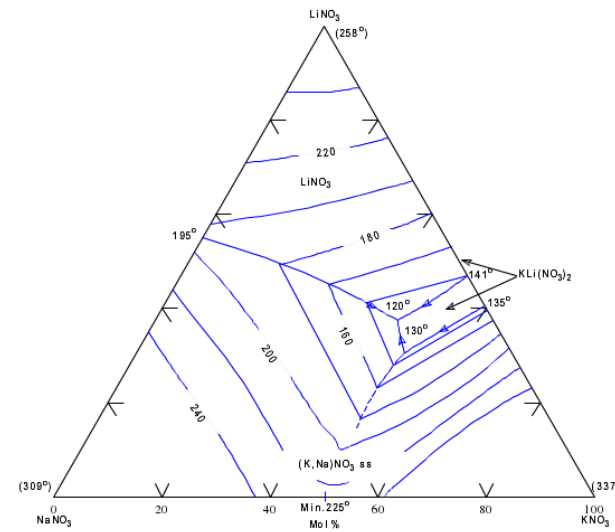
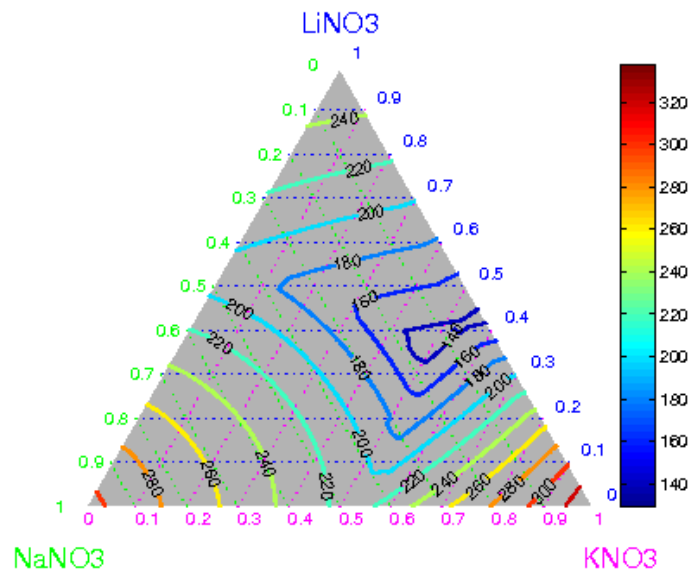
	Λ_{ij}	Λ_{ji}
LiNO ₃ -KNO ₃ (1-2)	3.157	2.363
LiNO ₃ -NaNO ₃ (1-3)	2.221	0.5753
KNO ₃ -NaNO ₃ (2-3)	1.021	0.5931
CsNO ₃ -KNO ₃ (4-2)	0.5010	1.211
CsNO ₃ -NaNO ₃ (4-3)	1.278	1.906
CsNO ₃ -LiNO ₃ (4-1)	4.438	4.281

(Sun et al., SAND2011-1703)

Ternary phase diagrams

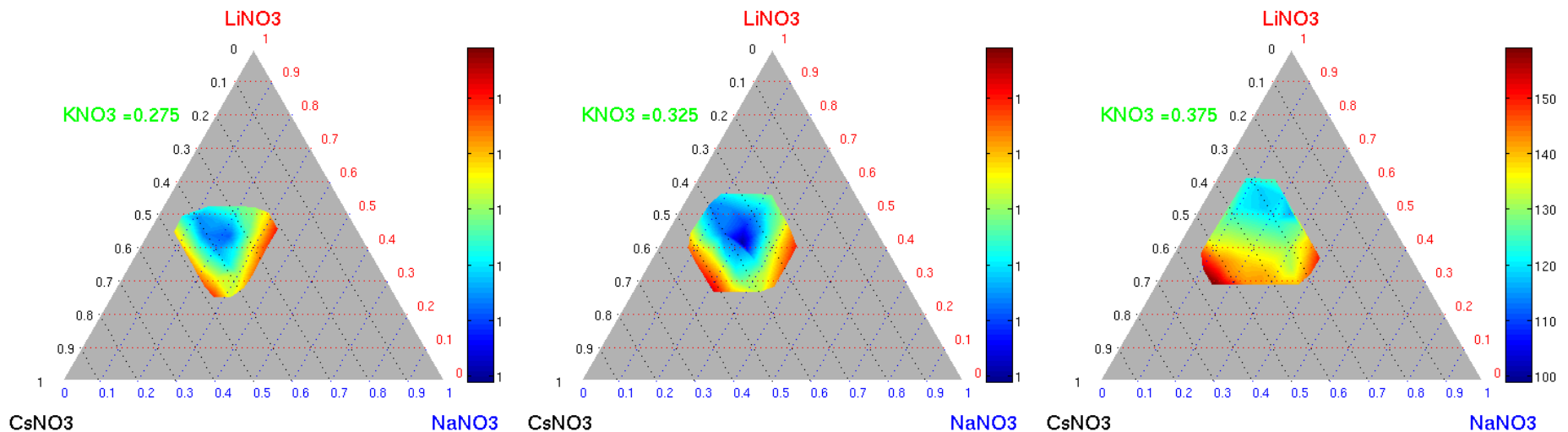
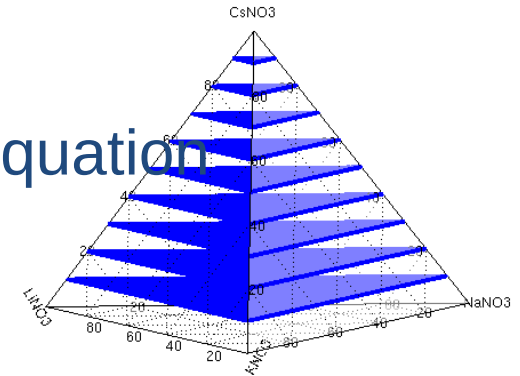
	Calculated $T_{eutectic}(C^{\circ})$	Experimental $T_{eutectic}(C^{\circ})$	Reference	Error (%)
LiNO ₃ -KNO ₃ -NaNO ₃ (1-2-3)	129	120	27	7.5
LiNO ₃ -NaNO ₃ -CsNO ₃ (1-3-4)	133	130	28	2.3
KNO ₃ -NaNO ₃ -CsNO ₃ (2-3-4)	153	154	29	0.60
LiNO ₃ -KNO ₃ -CsNO ₃ (1-2-4)	115	N/A	N/A	N/A

	LiNO ₃	KNO ₃	NaNO ₃	CsNO ₃	Error (%)
LiNO ₃ -KNO ₃ -NaNO ₃ (1-2-3)	0.360	0.481	0.160	0.00	8,10,4
LiNO ₃ -NaNO ₃ -CsNO ₃ (1-3-4)	0.375	0.00	0.211	0.414	20,21,15
KNO ₃ -NaNO ₃ -CsNO ₃ (2-3-4)	0.00	0.340	0.364	0.296	7,16,8
LiNO ₃ -KNO ₃ -CsNO ₃ (1-2-4)	0.373	0.356	0.00	0.272	N/A



Prediction of melting points of quaternary mixtures of nitrate salts using the Wilson Equation

(Davison & Sun, in review, I&EC research, 2011)



**Mixture of 0.28 LiNO₃, 0.14 NaNO₃, 0.33 KNO₃, 0.25 CsNO₃
predicted to melt at 100°C**

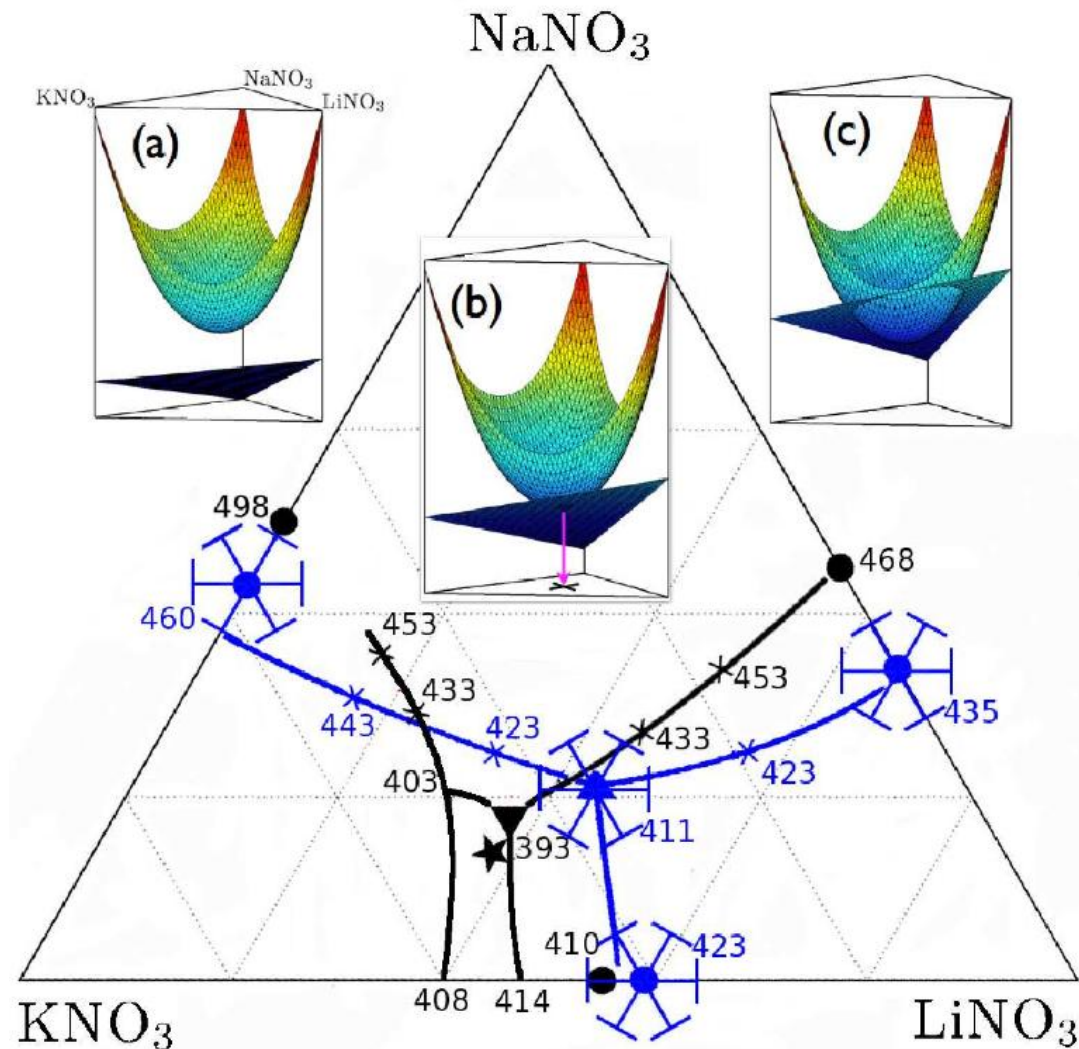
Phase Diagram based on Molecular Dynamics

1. Constructing a continuous path that gradually transforms the liquid in to the solid at one temperature to get
2. $\Delta G_{\text{solid} \rightarrow \text{liquid}}$
3. $G_{\text{liquid}}(T, x)$, $G_{\text{solid}}(T)$

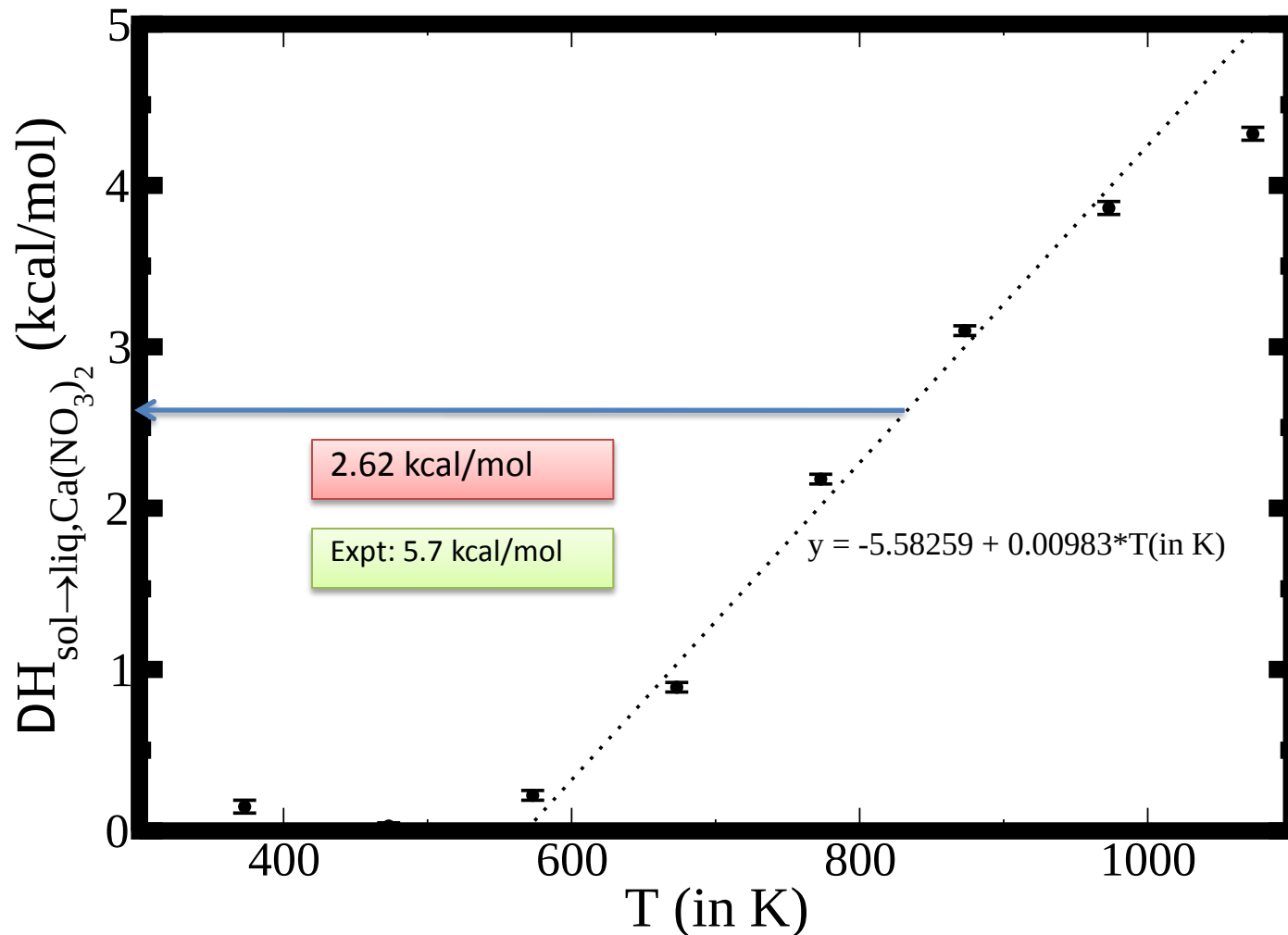
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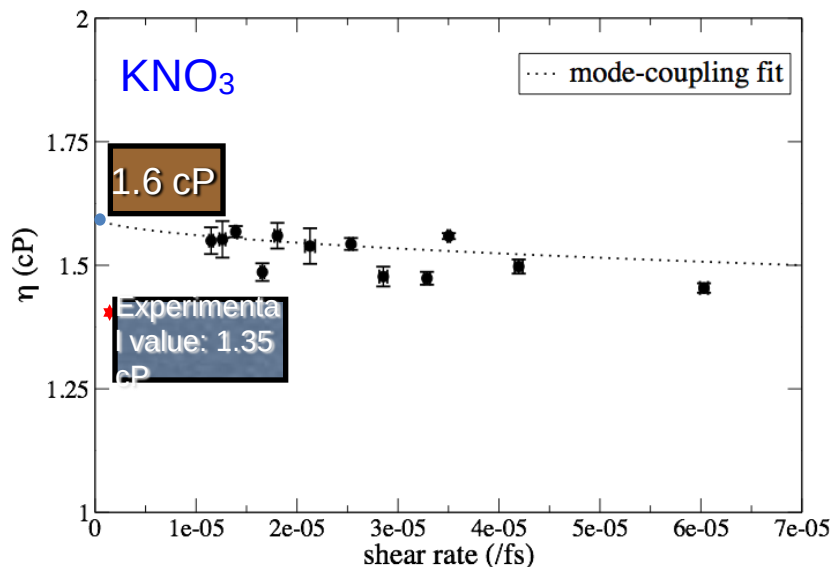
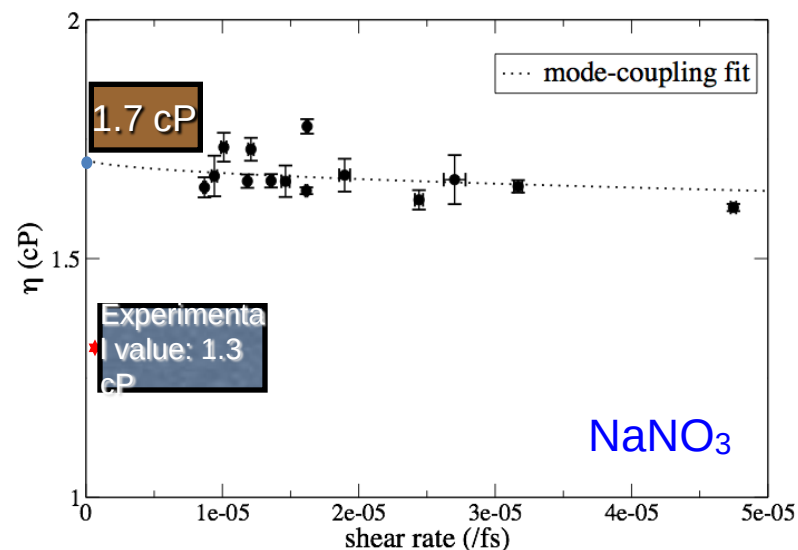
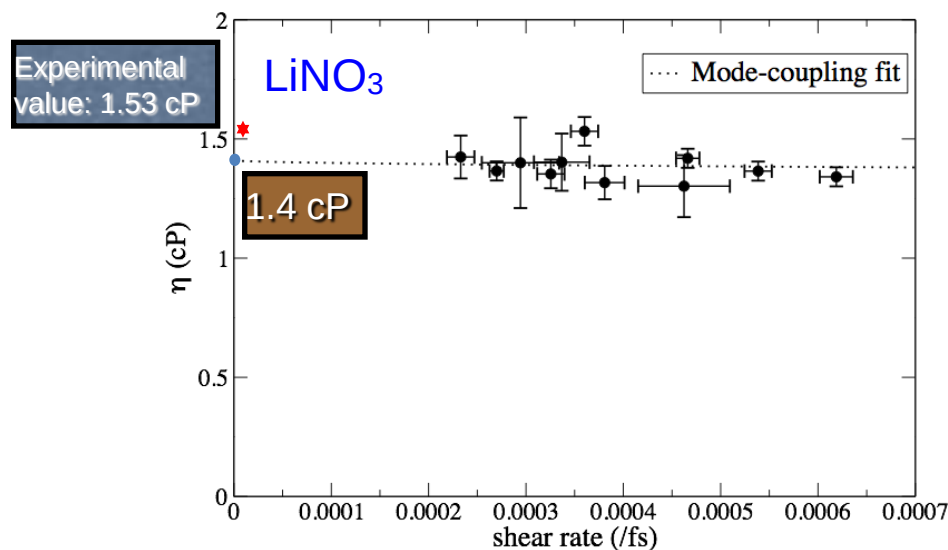
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Change in Helmholtz Energy between solid and liquid, MD simulations

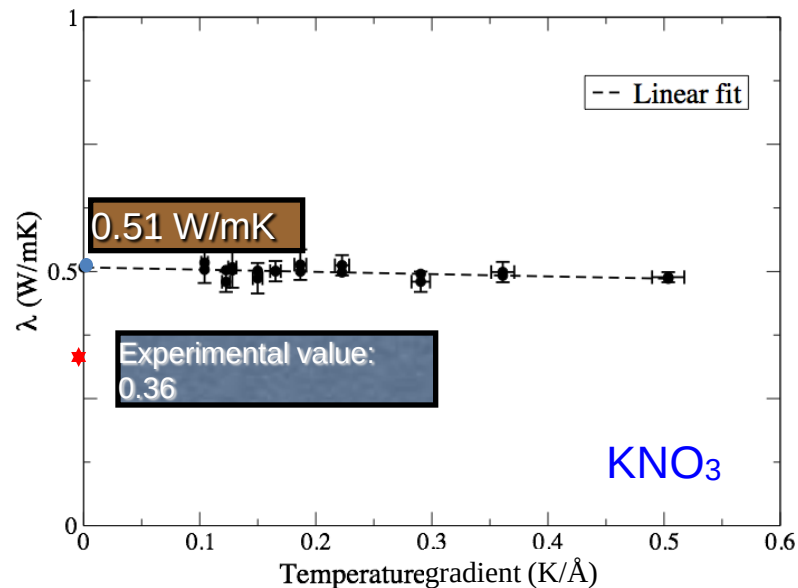
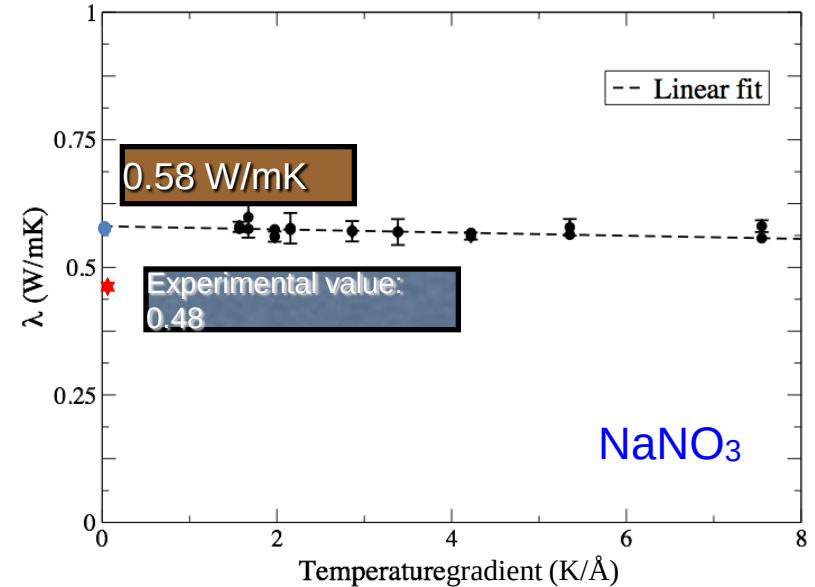
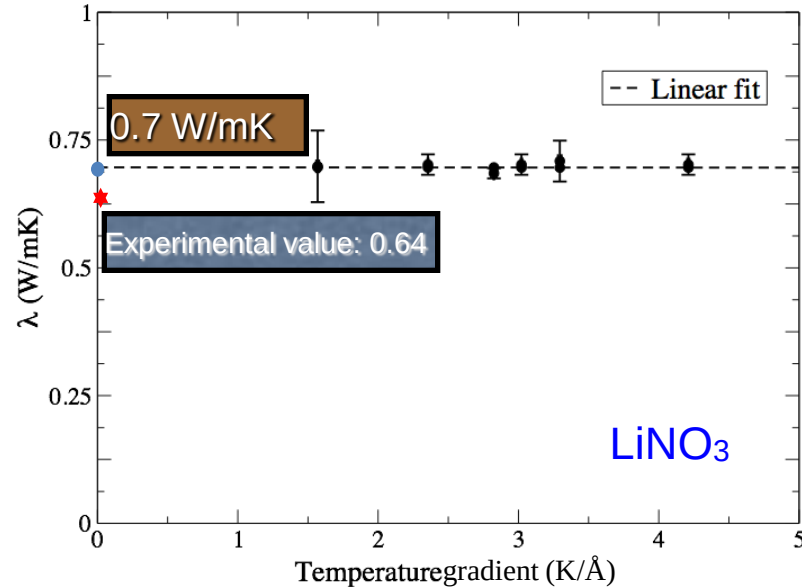


Transport Properties based on Molecular Dynamics



S Jayaraman, A. P. Thompson ,
O. A. von Lilienfeld and E. J.
Maginn, I&EC Res, **49**, 559-
571 (2010)

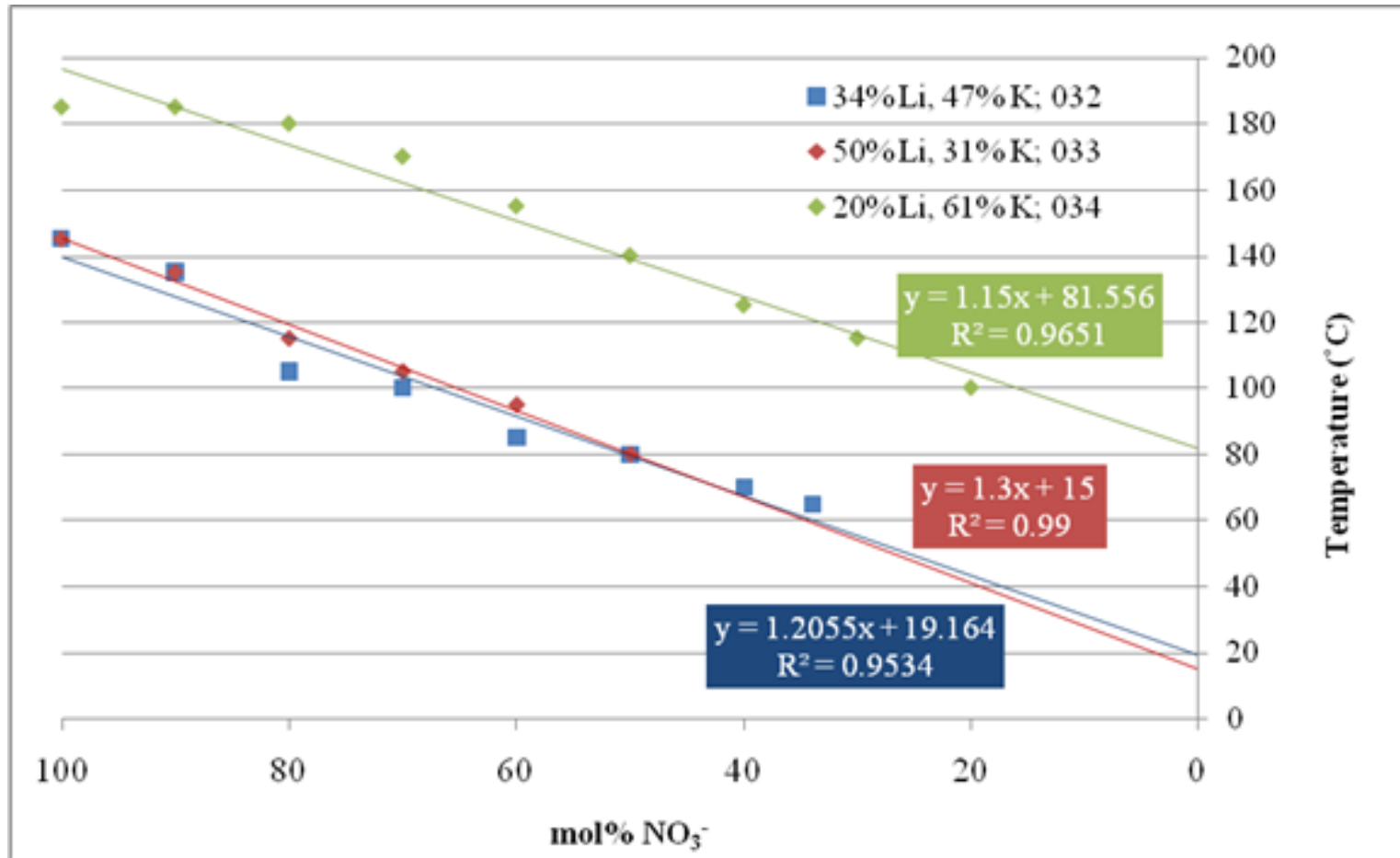
Transport Properties based on Molecular Dynamics



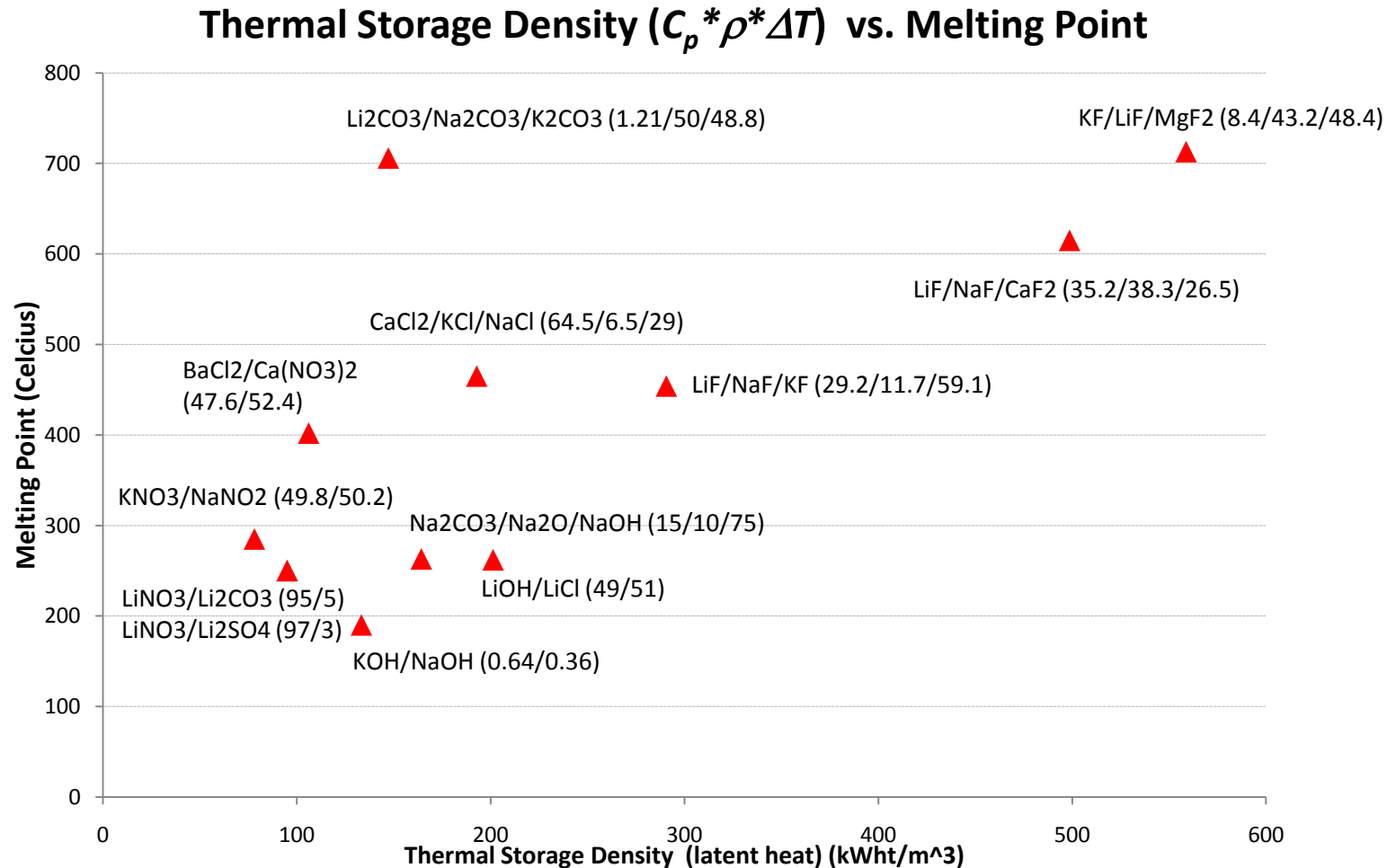
S Jayaraman, A. P. Thompson ,
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571 (2010)

Experimental effort

(J. Cordaro & R. Bradshaw, 2010)



Past energy storage studies*



Current effort

- Generalize and optimize methodology for the routine exploration of composition space in multi-component systems.
- Search through historical studies for overlap.
- Reconcile concurrent effort with other institutions (NREL, UAlabama, UWisconsin, Halotecnics)
- High temperature property estimations and decomposition chemistry
- Use of atomistic simulation for pure component data not available experimentally.

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