

# Isothermal (Vapour + Liquid) Equilibrium Measurements and Correlation of the Binary Mixture {3,3,3-Trifluoropropene (HFO-1243zf) + 2,3,3,3-tetrafluoropropene (HFO-1234yf)} at Temperatures from 283.15 K to 323.15 K

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# Abstract

The many constrains introduced by the F-gas Regulation and the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol have resulted in an intense search for alternatives to fluorinated greenhouses gases for air conditioning and refrigeration purposes (Mota-Babiloni A, Makhnatch P, in Int J Refrig 127:101-110, 2021). With respect to the urge of new low-GWP and low-ODP refrigerants, blends composed of hydrofluoroolefins (HFO) are considered promising possible substitutes to hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) for HVAC&R applications (Sovacool et al., in Renew Sustain Energy Rev 141:110759), but thermophysical properties data for these blends are still scarce (Bell et al., in: J Chem Eng Data, 2021). In the present study, the vapor-liquid equilibrium (VLE) for the binary system (HFO-1243zf+HFO-1234yf), for which just one set of data on the VLE is available to date in literature, has been experimentally studied by means of a vapor recirculation apparatus. The measurements have been performed at isothermal conditions in the range of temperatures between 283.15 K and 323.15 K, while the composition of both the phases in equilibrium has been measured by gas-chromatographic analysis. The experimental VLE data have been correlated by two different equations of state (EoS): the Peng-Robinson (PR) EoS combined with Mathias-Copeman (MC) alpha function and van der Waals (vdW) mixing rules, and the Helmoltz EoS with dedicated binary interaction parameters. Correlated results showed a good agreement with the experimental data for the binary system.

Keywords Low GWP · Hydrofluoroolefins · Heat pump · VLE

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## 1 Introduction

In the air conditioning and refrigeration industry (HVAC&R), the replacement of existing refrigerants with fluids with a lower environmental impact plays an increasingly central role[1]. The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol in 2016 [2] and even earlier, at European level, the EU Regulation No 517/2014 (better known as F-gas Regulation [3]), called for a progressive phase down in the production and consumption of HFC-based refrigerants, considered potent contributors to climate change due to their severe global warming potential (GWP). For instance, R134a and R410A, which represent the dominate refrigerants for air conditioning and refrigeration applications (both domestic and commercial), present a GWP of 1530 and 2256 respectively [4], definitely higher than the 150 GWP limit prescribed by the F-gas Regulation [3] on the long term. In the pursuit for low-GWP and low-ODP refrigerants a number of constraints, including thermophysical and thermodynamic properties, safety, chemical stability and compatibility with materials, and last but not least availability and cost, narrows the number of potential fluids [5]. In this perspective, blends composed of hydrofluoroolefins (HFO) have raised attention as the most promising alternatives to HFCs for HVAC&R applications [6], since they present similar thermodynamic properties, together with an ODP equal to zero and extremely low GWPs, but thermophysical properties data for these blends are still scarce [7]. Among HFOs, 2,3,3,3-tetrafluoropropene (R1234yf) and 3,3,3-trifluoropropene (R1243zf), represent potential alternatives in refrigeration and heat pump systems, with ODP = 0and GWP < 1 [4], and their performances as pure fluids have been compared to that of R134a in previous research [8-10].

In particular, R1234yf is by far the most investigated HFO, and a wide literature analysis regarding its thermophysical properties has been performed by Bobbo et al. [5], newly updated by Fedele et al. [11]. On the other hand, R1243zf has recently gained interest, having similar thermophysical properties of R134a and a lower price than R1234yf [12]; a number of studies has now been gathered about its thermodynamic properties, including critical point [13], vapour pressure [12, 14–17], *pvT* properties [13, 16, 18], specific heat capacity [19, 20] and speed of sound [21]. Analogously, also the transport properties of R1243zf, i.e. thermal conductivity [22], viscosity and surface tension [23, 24], have been researched more extensively. However, the flammability of R1234yf and R1243zf, classified as mildly flammable (A2L) and flammable (A2), respectively, and their reduced refrigerating capacity compared to HFCs increase their potential when used in blends [9]. Nowadays, several multi-component mixtures including either R1234yf or R1243zf have been presented as alternatives for the nextgeneration refrigerants [5, 8, 9, 12, 15, 25, 26]; nevertheless, to date only one study has been published on the thermodynamic properties of the binary mixture R1234yf+R1243zf [27], and accurate vapour-liquid equilibrium measurements of the blend, which are essential for the evaluation of its performance potential in a refrigeration cycle and the designing of the eventual refrigeration system, are still scarce. To compensate for this lack of information in the present study the isothermal vapor–liquid equilibrium (VLE) for the binary system (HFO-1243zf + HFO-1234yf was experimentally studied by means of a vapor recirculation apparatus at five temperatures in the range between 283.15 K and 323.15 K. The experimental VLE data were then compared with available literature and correlated by two different equations of state (EoS): the Peng-Robinson (PR) EoS combined with Mathias–Copeman (MC) alpha function and van der Waals (vdW) mixing rules and the Helmoltz EoS with dedicated binary interaction parameters. Finally, a further comparison was made with data correlated using the Helmoltz EoS currently implemented in REFPROP 10.0.

## 2 Experimental

#### 2.1 Materials

Table 1 summarizes the information on the R1234yf and R1243zf samples used in this study. In order to remove the non-condensable gases, the samples underwent several freeze–pump–thaw cycles with liquid nitrogen. Their purity was then verified by gas-chromatography analysis using a thermal conductivity detector (TCD). The samples were then used without further purification.

#### 2.2 Apparatus

The experimental setup used in this study was thoroughly described in previous work [28], thus only its salient features are presented here. The vapor recirculation apparatus consists of a visual VLE cell equipped with a magnetic pump, both immersed in a thermostatic water bath of about 100 l capacity. Inside the VLE cell, made of stainless steel and with an internal volume of 50 cm<sup>3</sup>, a faster thermodynamic equilibrium is reached thanks to the action of a magnetic pump, that ensures an intensive circulation of the vapor phase into the liquid one. The temperature inside the bath is stabilized by means of a PID-controlled system that operates on a heater immersed in the bath, while an auxiliary thermostatic bath is used to compensate for the heat produced by the PID-controlled system and to reach the desired level of temperature in the main bath. Temperature is measured with a 100 $\Omega$  platinum resistance thermometer and continuously recorded by means of a multimeter (Hewlett-Packard 3458). Temperature stability in the bath is  $\pm 1$  mK, and its expanded uncertainty (k=1) was assessed to be  $\pm 0.02$  K.

Table 1 Chemical information           on the samples	Substance	Structural formula	Supplier	Purity (mass fraction) <sup>a</sup>
	R1234yf	CH <sub>2</sub> =CF-CF <sub>3</sub>	Chemours	0.998
	R1243zf	CH <sub>2</sub> =CH-CF <sub>3</sub>	Mexichem	0.999

<sup>a</sup>GC analysis

Pressure is measured by means of a pressure gauge (Ruska 6000) with a full scale of 17,000 kPa and an expanded uncertainty (k=1) of  $\pm$ 1 kPa, considering both the accuracy of the pressure transducer and the stability of the pressure during the measurements. The compositions of the phases are then analyzed by a gas chromatograph (Hewlett-Packard 6890) connected on-line to the VLE cell and equipped with a TCD detector, previously calibrated by means of gravimetrically-prepared mixtures. As explained in [28], the expanded uncertainty (k=2) in mixture preparation is estimated equal to 0.3 mg, which gave an estimated uncertainty of 0.0001 mol·mol<sup>-1</sup> in molar fraction. The calibration was carried out every day with 8 bottles of different known compositions. For both the calibration and the measurements, the number of repeated measurements on same sample was such that a standard deviation lower than 0.001 mol·mol<sup>-1</sup> was obtained in the molar fraction on three consecutive measurements.



**Fig. 1** Schematic of the VLE apparatus. Components: cooler (CR), resistance thermometer for temperature control (CT), diaphragm (DP), equilibrium cell (EC), heating resistor (HR), magnetic pump (MP), resistance thermometer for temperature measurement (MT), nitrogen bottle (NB), pure refrigerant bottle (PB), pressure control pack (PCP), pressure gauge (PG), stirrer (ST), sampling valve (SV), vacuum pump (VP)

the expanded uncertainty (k=2) in composition measurements is estimated to be within  $\pm 0.003$  in mole fraction. A schematic of the experimental setup is reported in Fig. 1.

# **3** Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Vapor pressures of pure compounds

The vapor pressures of pure R1234yf and R1243zf were measured at 5 temperature points from 283.15 K to 323.15 K as shown in Table 2. The data were then compared with calculated results from REFPROP 10.0 [29] and the relative deviations of pressure between measured and calculated values are listed in Table 2, where p<sub>cal</sub> stands for the calculation data from the Helmholtz EoS implemented in the software [30, 31]. The relative deviations of pressure are graphically displayed in Fig. 2a and b, for R1234yf and R1243zf respectively. Figure 2a and b compare the experimental data from this work with several data reported in literature on the base of the EoS implemented in REFPROP, which thus represents the graphs baselines. Experimental data measured in this work differ from the baseline for about  $-0.5 \% \div -0.1\%$ for R1243zf and  $-0.11 \% \div +0.18 \%$  for 1234yf. As far as R1243zf is concerned, the major part of literature data is lower than the baseline in all the considered temperature range. In particular, as shown in Fig. 2a, data of Yang et al. [9] agree with our work for temperatures higher than 290 K while for lower temperatures data from Yin et al. [16] are consistent with our measurements. On the other hand, for R1234yf, data presented in this study match well the data of both Tanaka and Higashi [32], Di Nicola et al. [33] and Fedele et al. [34], as displayed in Fig. 2b.

#### 3.2 Experimental Data

Vapour-liquid equilibrium of R1243zf+R1234yf binary system was investigated isothermally at five temperatures, 283.15, 293.15, 303.15, 313.15 and 323.15 K, pressure range from 0.4 MPa to 1,2 MPa. The 41 P–T–x–y experimental data are summarized in Table 3 and plotted in Fig. 3, where  $x_1$  and  $y_1$  indicate the

<i>T/</i> K	R1243zf			R1234yf		
	p <sub>exp</sub> /kPa	$p_{cal}$ /kPa	$\delta_p / \%$	p <sub>exp</sub> /kPa	$p_{cal}$ /kPa	$\delta_p / \%$
283.15	374.74	375.36	- 0.165	438.15	437.53	0.142
293.15	509.37	509.99	- 0.122	592.80	591.72	0.182
303.15	675.02	678.01	- 0.443	784.65	783.51	0.145
313.15	880.68	884.28	- 0.409	1017.01	1018.40	- 0.137
323.15	1130.17	1134.00	- 0.339	1300.83	1302.30	- 0.113

 $p_{\text{cale}}$ : REFRPROP 10.0 (R1243zf: Akasaka and Lemmon Helmholtz EoS [30]; R1234yf: Richter et al. Helmholtz EoS [31]);  $\delta p = 100(p_{\text{exp}} - p_{\text{cale}})/p_{\text{exp}}$ 

Table 2Experimental andcalculated vapor pressures ofpure compounds



**Fig. 2** (a) Relative deviations of vapor pressures compared with the EoS by Akasaka and Lemmon [30] for R1243zf. Literature data: Yang et al. [15], Yang et al. [9], Higashi et al. [14], Yin et al. [16]. (b) Relative deviations of vapor pressure compared with the EoS by Richter et al. [31] for R1234yf. Literature data: Tanaka and Higashi [32], Di Nicola et al. [33], Hulse et al. [35], Fedele et al. [34]

liquid-phase and vapor-phase mole fraction of R1243zf, respectively. As shown in Fig. 3, the binary system demonstrated a near-azeotropic behavior over the entire range of composition.

#### 3.3 Data Reduction

The Peng-Robinson (PR) EoS and the Helmholtz EoS with dedicated binary interaction parameters were applied to model the experimental data. Results were then compared with the Helmholtz EoS implemented in REFPROP 10.0 [29] and literature data by Yang et al. [27].

Peng-Robinson EoS: the PR equation of state is expressed as

$$P = \frac{RT}{v - b} - \frac{a}{v(v + b) + b(v - b)}$$
(1)

T = 283.1	.15 K T=		T=293.1	Г=293.15 К		T=303.15 K		
<i>x</i> <sub>1</sub>	<i>y</i> <sub>1</sub>	$p_{\rm exp}$ /kPa	<i>x</i> <sub>1</sub>	<i>y</i> <sub>1</sub>	p <sub>exp</sub> /kPa	<i>x</i> <sub>1</sub>	<i>y</i> <sub>1</sub>	$p_{\rm exp}$ /kPa
0.858	0.8368	384.8	0.8661	0.8475	520.0	0.8779	0.8618	691.5
0.7866	0.7606	389.8	0.7858	0.7614	528.0	0.7909	0.7688	702.2
0.6297	0.5974	401.3	0.666	0.6379	539.0	0.6988	0.6639	713.3
0.5586	0.5254	406.2	0.6144	0.5866	545.5	0.5775	0.5486	726.8
0.4535	0.4224	412.5	0.422	0.395	559.2	0.437	0.4097	741.6
0.3427	0.3168	419.3	0.361	0.3318	564.5	0.358	0.3326	750.2
0.2204	0.2018	425.7	0.2399	0.2217	573.8	0.2399	0.2232	760.2
0.1467	0.1329	430.7	0.12	0.1101	581.9	0.1374	0.124	771.3
			0.0578	0.0513	586.5			
T=313.1	5 K				T=323.15	К		
<i>x</i> <sub>1</sub>	<i>y</i> <sub>1</sub>		p <sub>exp</sub> /kPa	a	<i>x</i> <sub>1</sub>	<i>y</i> <sub>1</sub>		$p_{\rm exp}/{\rm kPa}$
0.9015	0.	8866	897.7		0.8754	0.86	14	1156.3
0.8007	0.	7803	913.5		0.8438	0.82	73	1161.7
0.7017	0.	6757	928.6		0.788	0.76	61	1173.5
0.5777	0.	5494	946.8		0.6882	0.66	4	1192.3
0.44	0.	4166	961.2		0.5834	0.55	78	1210.4
0.3255	0.	2984	976.2		0.488	0.45	79	1228.1
0.1956	0.	1804	991.5		0.3838	0.36	14	1245.2
					0.284	0.26	25	1261.6
					0.1449	0.13	24	1281.7

Table 3 Experimental VLE data for R1243zf (1)+R1234yf (2) at T=283.15, 293.15, 303.15, 313.15, 323.15 K

with

$$a_{i} = 0.45724 \frac{R^{2} T_{ci}^{2}}{p_{ci}} \alpha_{i}(T)$$
<sup>(2)</sup>

$$b_i = 0.07780 \frac{RT_{ci}}{p_{ci}}$$
(3)

where  $a_i$  and  $b_i$  are, respectively, the energy and the covolume parameter of the *i*th component; *P*, *T* and *v* are pressure, temperature and molar volume, *R* is the universal gas constant;  $T_{ci}$  and  $p_{ci}$  are the critical temperature and critical pressure of the ith component.

In order to obtain a more accurate prediction for pure vapor pressure, for  $\alpha_i(T)$  the following alpha function proposed by Mathias and Copeman was followed:



Fig. 3 VLE for the R1243zf (1)+R1234yf (2) binary mixture at 5 different temperatures. Solid points: experimental data; Solid lines: Helmholtz model; dashed lines: PR-MC-VdW model

<b>Table 4</b> Critical parameters and values of $C_1$ , $C_2$ and $C_3$ of the	Fluid	$T_c/\mathbf{K}$	p <sub>c</sub> ∕kPa	$C_{I}$	$C_2$	$C_3$
pure fluids	R1243zf	376.93	3517.9	0.80529	-0.5758	1.6418
	R1234yf	367.85	3382.2	0.8049	-0.4242	1.7469

$$\alpha_i(T) = \left[ 1 + C_1 \left( 1 - \sqrt{\frac{T}{T_{ci}}} \right) + C_2 \left( 1 - \sqrt{\frac{T}{T_{ci}}} \right)^2 + C_3 \left( 1 - \sqrt{\frac{T}{T_{ci}}} \right)^3 \right]^2$$
(4)

Critical properties of R1234yf and R1243zf  $T_{ci}$  and  $p_{ci}$  were taken from REPROP 10.0 [29], while for the coefficients  $C_1, C_2, C_3$  of the two pure fluids used in Eq. 4, values taken from the literature were used [9, 36]. The critical properties and the coefficients of MC alpha function are reported in Table 4.

To calculate the energy and the covolume parameters of the EoS for the mixture, a and b respectively, the Van der Walls one-parameter mixing rule was applied:

$$a = \sum_{i} \sum_{j} x_{i} x_{j} a_{ij} \tag{5}$$

$$a_{ij} = (1 - k_{ij})\sqrt{a_i a_j} \tag{6}$$

$$b = \sum_{i} x_{i} b_{i} \tag{7}$$

where  $x_i$  is the mole fraction of the *i*th component and  $k_{ij}$  is the binary interaction parameter, satisfying the condition  $k_{ij} = k_{ji}$  and  $k_{ii} = k_{jj} = 0$ . The binary interaction parameter was regressed to the experimental data by minimizing the objective function:

$$F_{\rm obj} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i} \left( x_{\rm exp,i} - x_{\rm calc,i} \right)^2} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i} \left( y_{\rm exp,i} - y_{\rm calc,i} \right)^2}$$
(8)

where the subscripts  $\exp, i$  and  $\operatorname{calc}, i$  are referred to the experimental and calculated liquid, *x*, and vapour, *y*, mole fractions of the i-th component. N is the number of experimental data. The regressed value for the binary interaction parameter is shown in Table 5.

*Helmoltz EoS:* a further EoS was used to model the thermodynamic behavior of the mixture, i.e. the Kunz and Wagner [37] multi-fluid Helmholtz energy model, based on the fact that all the thermodynamic properties can be formulated as function of the Helmholtz energy, such as:

$$p = \rho RT \left( 1 + \delta \frac{\partial \alpha^r}{\partial \delta} (\tau, \delta) \right)$$
(9)

 Table 5
 Binary interaction parameters and objective functions of PR-MC-VdW and Helmholtz models

 PR-MC-vdW EoS
 PR-MC-vdW EoS

k <sub>12</sub> 0.001122				
$\overline{\beta_t}$	$\gamma_t$	$\beta_{\rm v}$	$\gamma_{\rm v}$	OF
0.99981	0.99777	1	1	0.0157

The model is built as function of reduced temperature  $\tau$  and reduced density  $\delta$ :

$$\delta = \rho / \rho_{c(\bar{x})} \tag{10}$$

$$\tau = T_{c(\bar{x})}/T \tag{11}$$

$$T_{c,ij} = \beta_{T,ij} \gamma_{T,ij} \frac{x_i + x_j}{\beta_{T,ij}^2 x_i + x_j} (T_{c,i} T_{c,j})^{1/2}$$
(12)

$$\frac{1}{\rho_{c,ij}} = \beta_{\nu,ij} \gamma_{\nu,ij} \frac{x_i + x_j}{\beta_{\nu,ij}^2 x_i + x_j} \frac{1}{8} (\frac{1}{\rho_{c,i}^{1/3}} + \frac{1}{\rho_{c,j}^{1/3}})^3$$
(13)

where  $\rho$  represents the density of the mixture;  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  are the molar fraction of the i-th and j-th components of the mixture and  $\alpha^r$  is the residual part of the dimensionless Helmholtz free energy. Subscripts *T* and *v* are referred to temperature and volume for the binary interaction parameters  $\beta_{T,ij}$ ,  $\gamma_{T,ij}$ ,  $\beta_{v,ij}$ ,  $\gamma_{v,ij}$ , which need to be tuned with experimental data. Since the amount of data was limited and concerned only VLE data, only the parameters  $\beta_{T,ij}$  and  $\gamma_{T,ij}$  have been fitted [40]. The tuning of the parameters was performed through a heuristic optimization algorithm, Adaptive Search Development Particle Swarm Optimization (ASD-PSO) [38], by minimizing the objective function of Eq. 8. Thermodynamic properties were then computed by REFPROP 10.0 subroutines as bubble and dew point calculations with temperature, vapor and liquid compositions as inputs.

Regressed binary interaction parameters are shown in Table 5. Concerning the fitted parameter for the cubic equation, a first test was made fitting the parameter for each isotherm in order to observe if a dependence on temperature exists. Then, only one parameter has been shown in this work since a standard deviation of  $1.4e^{-6}$  was obtained among the parameters for the single isotherms. Thus, the temperature dependence of  $k_{12}$  can be considered negligible.

#### 3.4 Discussion

Figure 3 shows the phase diagram of the R1243zf/R1234yf binary system calculated by the PR-MC-VdW and the Helmholtz-type models for each analyzed temperature. On the whole, both the PR-MC-VdW and the Helmholtz models can describe well the experimental data and the near-azeotropic behavior of the mixture, with minor difference between one model and the other.

Figures 4 and 5 show the relative deviations of pressure and the absolute deviations of vapor phase composition calculated by the two models, while numerical values are reported in Table 6. The overall average absolute deviation of pressure (AAD(p)) and the average absolute deviation of vapor phase mole fraction (AAD(y)) are equal to 0.409 % (AAD(p)) and 0.002 m(AAD(y)) with the PR-MC-VdW model and 0.192 % (AAD(p)) and 0.002 (AAD(y)) with the Helmholtz model.



**Fig. 4** Relative deviations of pressure for the R1243zf (1)+R1234yf (2) binary mixture from PR-MC-VdW and Helmholtz model. x: 283.15 K (PR-MC-VdW model); x: 283.15 K (Helmholtz model);  $\diamondsuit$ : 293.15 K;  $\bigcirc$ : 303.15 K;  $\bigcirc$ : 313.15 K;  $\bigstar$ : 323.15 K. Solid points: PR-MC-VdW model; empty points: Helmholtz model



**Fig. 5** Absolute deviations of vapor phase composition for the R1243zf (1)+R1234yf (2) binary mixture from PR-MC-VdW and Helmholtz models. x: 283.15 K (PR-MC-VdW model); x: 283.15 K (Helmholtz model);  $\diamond$ : 293.15 K;  $\bigcirc$ : 303.15 K;  $\square$ : 313.15 K;  $\triangle$ : 323.15 K. Solid points: PR-MC-VdW model; empty points: Helmholtz model

The thermodynamic consistency of the isothermal experimental data was verified by applying the point-to-point test method proposed by Van Ness et al. [39]. The test is based on the average absolute deviation of vapor phase mole fraction (AAD(y)), which must be less than 0.01 [12]. Since, as shown in Fig. 5, values of  $\Delta y$  are always lower than 0.01, the AAD(y) is necessarily lower than the threshold value, even considering the vapor phase composition uncertainties, and thus the thermodynamic consistency for the experimental values can be considered satisfied.

Figure 6 shows the relative volatilities obtained with the two models compared with the experimental ones, which are represented by the solid red curve. The relative volatility is calculated as in Eq. 14

Table 6         Calculation deviations           of PR-MC-VdW and Helmholtz         models		PR-MC-vdW	Helmholtz
	AAD $(\Delta p\%)^a$	0.409	0.192
	Bias $(\Delta p\%)^{\rm b}$	- 0.399	0.183
	AAD $(\Delta y)^{c}$	0.002	0.002
	Bias $(\Delta y)^d$	0.0002	0.0008
	$aAAD(\Delta p\%) = \frac{100}{N_p} \sum$	$\sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \left( \frac{ \Delta p }{p_{\exp}} \right)_i$	

hp: (A (C) $100 \nabla^{N_p} \left(\Delta p\right)$	
${}^{\circ}Bias(\Delta p\%) = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{i=1}^{r} \left(\frac{1}{p_{exp}}\right)_i$	
${}^{c}AAD(\Delta y) = \frac{1}{N_{o}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{o}} ( \Delta y )_{i}$	
<sup>d</sup> Bias( $\Delta y$ ) = $\frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} (\Delta y)_i$	
$k_1 \qquad y_1 \bullet x_2$	
$\alpha_{1,2} = \frac{1}{k_2} = \frac{1}{v_2 \cdot r_1}$	(14)
$x_2$ $y_2 \cdot x_1$	

where the subscripts 1 and 2 refer to R1243zf and R1234yf, respectively. As it can be seen, both the Helmholtz model and the PR-MC-VdW model are in good agreement with the experimental volatilities, with deviations always within 5 % from the red curve (except for one outlier). Moreover, in Fig. 6, data are further compared with predicted values calculated using the Helmholtz-type EoS implemented in REFPROP 10.0. Since no thermodynamic data for this binary mixture have been published but the one from Yang et al. [27], in this software no dedicated parameters of the Helmholtz EoS are adopted for the R1243zf/R1234yf system; instead, the binary interaction parameters for the mixture R1234yf/R1234zeE are used and a mismatch from the experimental relative volatilities is evident, thus underlining the



**Fig. 6** Relative volatilities of the R1243zf (1)+R1234yf (2) binary mixture. •: values from the REF-PROP 10.0 software;  $\Delta$ : PR-MC-VdW EoS as in Eq. 1;  $\Box$ : Helmholtz EoS as in Eq. 9; Solid line: experimental values from this work; dashed lines show  $\pm 5$  % from experimental data



**Fig. 7** Relative deviations of pressure between experimental and calculated data from this work and predictions of the REFPROP 10.0 software for the R1243zf (1)+R1234yf (2) binary mixture.  $\bullet$ : experimental data by Yang et al. [27];  $\Box$ : experimental data from this work; dashed line: pressure values from the PR-MC-VdW EoS as in Eq. 1;  $\Delta$ : pressure values from the REFPROP 10.0 software. The baseline represents calculated values from the Helmholtz EoS as in Eq. 9

fact that the Helmholtz EoS may not be effective when dedicated parameters are not regressed, unlike in the present work.

Finally, to further evaluate the consistency of the experimental data and to quantify the error committed by applying the BIPs implemented in REFPROP Fig. 7 shows the relative deviations of pressure between values measured in this work, the 12 bubble points measured by Yang et al. [27] and the REFPROP 10.0 predictions, where the baseline represents the Helmholtz EoS with dedicated binary parameters as in Eq. 9. As already shown in Fig. 4, the two models applied in this study agree well with the experimental data in terms of relative pressure, whereas the experimental data from Yang et al. [27] show scattered deviations from the Helmholtz model up to -1.93 % at 333.15 K. As regards the REFPROP 10.0 model, U-shaped systematic deviations are observed, with a maximum deviation of—4.2 % relative pressure.

#### 4 Conclusion

In this study the VLE of the R1243zf/R1234yf binary mixture was isothermally measured with high reliability using a vapor recirculation apparatus at 5 temperatures from 283.15 K to 323.15 K, while in the same temperature range 10 vapour pressure data of the pure compounds were measured and compared with literature data and the Helmholtz EoS implemented in REFPROP 10.0. A modified PR EoS and a Helmholtz-type EoS were implemented to successfully reproduce the experimental VLE data. The average absolute deviation of pressure (AAD(p)) and the average absolute deviation of vapor phase mole fraction (AAD(y)) are 0.409 % and 0.002, respectively, for PR-MC -VdW model, and 0.192 % and 0.002, respectively,

for the Helmholtz model. Furthermore, predictions from the Helmholtz-type EoS currently implemented in the REFPROP 10.0 software for the binary mixture demonstrated systematic deviations of up to 4.5 % from the experimental data from this work, highlighting the importance of regressing dedicated binary interaction parameters on experimental thermophysical data.

Author Contributions GL, DM and MS performed the measurements, DM and GL performed the modelling, LF and SB revised the experimental data. All authors reviewed the manuscript.

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#### Declarations

**Competing Interests** The authors have no competing interests, or other interests that might be perceived to influence the results and/or discussion reported in this paper.

Ethical Approval Not applicable.

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