

A Digression to Ionic Liquid Metastability – The case of [C₂mim][CH₃SO₃]

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Ionic liquids have been suggested as new engineering fluids, namely in the area of heat transfer, as alternatives to current biphenyl and diphenyl oxide, alkylated aromatics and dimethyl polysiloxane oils, which degrade above 200 °C and pose some environmental problems. Recently, we have proposed 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium methanesulfonate, [C₂mim][CH₃SO₃], as a new heat transfer fluid, because of its thermophysical and toxicological properties [1]. The behavior of the ionic liquid below the melting point (shown to be $T_{\text{melt}} = 307.8 \pm 1$ K) [2] demonstrated the existence of metastability, a fact that can justify its use in several industrial applications, extending its temperature range to temperatures lower than the melting temperature. This phenomenon was demonstrated by performing accurate measurements of the thermal conductivity of the liquid and solid between 278 and 355 K with an estimated uncertainty of 2% at a 95% confidence level.

References

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[2] - Lozano-Martín, D.; Vieira, S.I.C.; Paredes, X.; Lourenço, M.J.V.; Nieto de Castro, C.A.; Sengers, J.V.; Massonne, K. Thermal Conductivity of Metastable Ionic Liquid [C₂mim][CH₃SO₃], *Molecules*, 2020, Volume 25(18), 4290. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules25184290>