



## The specific heat of linear tangent hard sphere chains

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**ABSTRACT** The specific heat ( $C_p$ ) of linear tangent hard sphere chains of varying length is determined by employing Wertheim's first order perturbation theory. It is shown that the equation of state obtained by Wertheim's first order perturbation theory predicts the same values of specific heat as those obtained through the equation of state obtained by Monte Carlo computer simulation.

**KEYWORDS** Tangent hard sphere chains, chain lengths, Monte Carlo simulation

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Well-established model to study chain-like molecular systems in which the molecules are modeled as chains formed by connected spherical segments. This model is commonly used to represent polymer's thermodynamic properties and their size behavior. Chain molecules of tangent segments can be considered fully flexible unless bending and torsional potentials are explicitly incorporated. In these models, the pair potential between monomers that form this chain is given by a spherical potential. Wertheim [1-4] and Chapman, Jackson and Gubbins [5] presented independently a very successful theory to study the thermodynamic properties of hard core fluids interacting with short range attractive forces. Wertheim's formulation also provides quite good description for Lennard-Jones (LJ) chains [6], square well chains [8], Yukawa chains [9], vapour-liquid equilibrium [10], critical properties [11] and fluid-solid coexistence [12-14]. Thus, it is possible to derive an equation of state for a chain of freely joined tangent hard segments using thermodynamic information of monomer reference fluid. This theory is commonly known as the first order thermodynamic perturbation theory (TPT-1). By employing TPT-1, the approximate equation of state of the chain fluid can be derived knowing the equation of state of the monomer fluid and its pair correlation function at contact. As we have considered the critical segments of the chain, hard sphere reference system is quite useful.

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Despite the extensive number of studies devoted to the Wertheim's theory, relatively little attention has been paid to the thermodynamic properties such as specific heat of the chain molecules. To the best of our knowledge, no work has been done in this direction. In the present work, we have carried out a simple numerical calculation by employing a simple formula of specific heat depending upon the equation of state. We have also carried out the numerical calculations of the specific heat from equation of state obtained by Monte Carlo simulations and compared both theoretical results and those obtained from Monte Carlo results. We find a good agreement between the two values.

Let us consider the spherical monomer particles  $N^{ref}$  within a certain volume  $V$  at temperature  $T$ . These spherical particles interact through a spherical pair potential  $u(r)$ . We shall denote this fluid as the reference fluid and labeled by superscript reference. Let us also consider a fully flexible chains of  $m$  monomers such that  $N = N^{ref}/m$ . The Helmholtz free energy of the reference fluid  $A^{ref}$  can be divided into an ideal and a residual part as follows [12]:

$$\frac{A^{ref}}{N^{ref}KT} = \frac{A_{ideal}^{ref}}{N^{ref}KT} + \frac{A_{residual}^{ref}}{N^{ref}KT} = \ln(\rho^{ref} \sigma^3) - 1 + \frac{A_{residual}^{ref}}{N^{ref}KT} \quad (1)$$

where  $\rho^{ref}$  is the number density of the reference fluid and  $\sigma$  is the thermal de Broglie wavelength

From the Helmholtz free energy, we can derive the expression of the equation of state as

$$Z^{chain} = Z(\eta) = mZ^{ref} - (m-1) \frac{1 + \eta - 0.5\eta^2}{(1-\eta)(1-0.5\eta)} \quad (2)$$

For flexible chain molecules, the reference fluid is that of hard spheres in the fluid phase and described by Carnahan-Starling Equation of state [15] as

$$Z^{ref} = \frac{1 + \eta + \eta^2 - \eta^3}{(1-\eta)^3} \quad (3)$$

where  $\eta$  is the volume fraction of the hard sphere defined as  $\eta = (\pi/6)\rho^{ref}\sigma^3$ , the  $g^{ref}(\sigma)$  can be obtained by employing Virial route to the pressure as [16]

$$Z^{ref} = 1 + 4\eta g^{ref}(\sigma) \quad (4)$$

Now, we know that the specific heat  $C_p$  of a system of hard spheres of diameter  $\sigma$  can be expressed as [17, 18]

$$\frac{C_p}{K_B} = \frac{D}{2} + \frac{|Z(\eta)|^2}{\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} [ \eta Z(\eta) ]} \quad (5)$$

where  $D$  is the dimension (in the present case  $D=3$ ) and  $Z(\eta)$  is the equation of state of the hard sphere system. We consider  $Z(\eta)$  is the equation of state of chain system which can be obtained by employing Wertheim's first order theory

Now,  $\frac{\delta(\eta Z)}{\delta \eta}$  can be evaluated from eq (2) as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} (\eta Z) &= m \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \left[ \frac{\eta(1 + \eta + \eta^2 - \eta^3)}{(1-\eta)^3} \right] \\ &- (m-1) \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \left[ \frac{\eta(1 + \eta - 0.5\eta^2)}{(1-\eta)(1-0.5\eta)} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

$$= m l_1 - (m-1) l_2$$

and

$$l_1 = \frac{(1-\eta)(1+2\eta+3\eta^2-4\eta^3) + 3(\eta+\eta^2+\eta^3-\eta^4)}{(1-\eta)^4}$$

$$l_2 = \frac{(1-\eta)(1-0.5\eta)(1+2\eta-1.5\eta^2) + (\eta+\eta^2-0.5\eta^3)(1.5-\eta)}{(1-\eta)^2(1-0.5\eta)^2}$$

Thus, the  $C_p$  of the chain system can be determined by employing eqs (2) and (5)

Recently, Malanoski and Monson [19] have presented extensive calculations of the equation of state of freely joined chains of tangents hard spheres using Monte Carlo computer simulation, as

$$Z = \frac{P}{\rho K T} = \frac{(C_0^3 + C_1\eta + C_2\eta^2 + C_3\eta^3 + C_4\eta^4)}{(C_0 - \eta)^4}$$

where  $C_0, C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4$  are the coefficients for the rational function fits of the equations of state of the fluid at different density ranges and are given in Table 2 of the Ref [19]. We can determine that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} (\eta Z) &= \left[ (C_0 - \eta)(C_0^3 + 2C_1\eta + 3C_2\eta^2 + 4C_3\eta^3 + 5C_4\eta^4) \right. \\ &\left. + 3(C_0^3 + C_1\eta^2 + C_2\eta^3 + C_3\eta^4 + C_4\eta^5) \right] / (C_0 - \eta)^4 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we can determine the values of  $C_p/K_B$  for chain fluids employing Monte Carlo equations of state (7) in eq (5)

In the present work, Wertheim's theory of the flexible chain molecules, called as pearl necklace model has been employed to determine the specific heat ( $C_p$ ) of the chain molecules of different chain lengths. We assume that the simple formulation of the specific heat ( $C_p$ ) of the system of hard spheres will remain valid for the chain molecules by approximating the equation of state of chain molecules instead of equation of state of hard sphere. We shall compare the results obtained from the Wertheim's theory with the simulation results of Malanoski and Monson [19] for the pearl necklace model. Malanoski and Monson [19] have provided empirical fits to their simulation results of the equation of state for the fluid phase of chain molecules with  $m$  ranging from  $m = 3$  up to  $m = 8$ . Therefore,  $C_p$  obtained from these empirical fits are considered here as  $C_p$  simulation results. A comparison between theoretical and simulation values of  $C_p/NK_B$  has been shown in table 1 for chain lengths  $m=3,4,5$

**Table 1** Specific heat ( $C_p/NK_B$ ) of the pearl-necklace model in the fluid phase from Wertheim's theory and the simulation data

$\eta$	$(C_p/NK_B)$							
	$m=3$		$m=4$		$m=5$		$m=6$	
	TPT	MC	TPT	MC	TPT	MC	TPT	MC
0.20	1.06	1.04	0.86	0.84	0.74	0.68	0.65	0.66
0.25	1.186	1.14	0.98	0.97	0.86	0.81	0.77	
0.30	1.35	1.32	1.14	1.14	1.02	0.98	0.93	0.96
0.35	1.56	1.56	1.35	1.35	1.23	1.20	1.14	
0.40	1.85	1.86	1.63	1.62	1.50	1.48	1.41	
0.45	2.20	2.23	1.99	1.96	1.86	1.83	1.77	

We find a good agreement between the theoretical and simulation values. However, the small discrepancy at low  $\rho$  increases with increasing chain length. This may be due to the characteristic of the first order thermodynamic transition theory. More improved theories such as Dimer fluid theory [20] and Generalized Flory Dimer theory may improve the results for long chain molecules.

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