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# **Supporting Information**

On the microscopic origin of Soret coefficient minima in

liquid mixtures

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# Contents

1	Add	Additional results & discussion				
	1.1	Equation of state and phase diagram	3			
	1.2	Ideal and excess contributions to the thermodynamic factor $\ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots$	4			
1.3 Theoretical models						
1.4 Radial distribution functions						
1.5 Thermal conductivity						
2	Physical properties from simulations					
	2.1	Equilibrium molecular dynamics simulations	10			
	Soret coefficient and thermal conductivity from NEMD	11				
		2.2.1 Simulation details	11			
		2.2.2 Linear response	12			
		2.2.3 Finite-size effects	13			
	2.3	Partial molar properties	14			
	2.4	4 Onsager's phenomenological coefficients				
	2.5	5 Chemical potentials				
	2.6	Self-diffusion coefficients and shear viscosity				
	2.7	7 Kirkwood-Buff integrals from grand canonical Monte Carlo				
2.8 Kirkwood-Buff integrals from molecular dynamics $(NVT)$ simulations						
	2.9	Melting points of the pure components	24			

## 1 Additional results & discussion

## 1.1 Equation of state and phase diagram

Fig. 1(a) shows the equation of state of the mixture as a function of  $x_1$ . The equilibrium-NPT and NEMD results are in excellent agreement, indicating that the local equilibrium hypothesis is fulfilled in the NEMD simulations. The mixture is expected to have a solid-solution phase diagram,<sup>1</sup> and the thermodynamically stable phase for  $x_1 = 0$  is a solid (see Sec. 2.9 below). Therefore, the mixture crosses three regions of the phase diagram along the  $(x_1; P = 0.46 \ \epsilon \sigma^{-3}, T = 0.62 \ \epsilon k_{\rm B}^{-1})$  line: a liquid-liquid mixture for  $x_l < x_1 < 1$  where  $x_l$  corresponds to the liquidus; a liquid-solid coexistence region  $x_s \le x_1 \le x_l$  where  $x_s$  corresponds to the solidus; and a solidsolid mixture for  $0 < x_1 < x_s$ . All the results presented in this work correspond to a liquid-liquid mixture, including  $x_1 \le x_l$  for which our simulations are of the metastable supercooled liquidliquid mixture. Thus, it is necessary to estimate  $x_l$  in order to gauge the range of validity of our results.

For an ideal solution the phase diagram can be estimated using the equations<sup>2,3</sup>

$$\ln \frac{x_{s,1}}{x_{l,1}} = \frac{\Delta H_{\text{fus},1}}{R} \left( \frac{1}{T_{m,1}} - \frac{1}{T} \right) \tag{1}$$



Figure 1: Equation of state and phase diagram of the LJ mixture. (a) The number density  $\rho_N$  for  $(P = 0.46 \ \epsilon \sigma^{-3}, T = 0.62 \ \epsilon k_B^{-1})$  as a function of mole fraction  $x_1$ , as predicted by MD(NPT), GCMC and NEMD simulations. All simulated systems correspond to a liquid, which is metastable for  $x_1 \leq x_l$ , where  $x_l$  is the mole fraction of the liquidus shown in (b). (b) The estimated solid solution phase diagram of the mixture at  $P = 0.46 \ \epsilon \sigma^{-3}$ . The symbols are: S = solid solution; L = liquid mixture; S+L = solid and liquid coexistence.

$$\ln \frac{1 - x_{s,1}}{1 - x_{l,1}} = \frac{\Delta H_{\text{fus},2}}{R} \left( \frac{1}{T_{m,2}} - \frac{1}{T} \right)$$
(2)

where R is the gas constant;  $T_{m,i}$  and  $\Delta H_{\text{fus},i}$  are the melting temperature and enthalpy of fusion, respectively, of species i; and  $x_{l,1}$  and  $x_{s,1}$  are the mole fractions of the liquidus and solidus for end-member 1. Eqs. 1&2 further assume that there is no difference in isobaric heat capacity between the supercooled liquid and pure solid of species 1 at T.<sup>3</sup> The predicted phase diagram is shown in Fig. 1(b), with  $x_l \approx 0.21$  at  $T = 0.62 \ \epsilon k_{\rm B}^{-1}$ . The mixture is near-ideal at  $x_1 \approx 0.21$  with thermodynamic factor  $\Gamma \approx 0.8$ , and the assumption of ideal mixing is therefore expected to be a good approximation. The  $S_T$  and  $\Gamma$  minima at  $x_1 \sim 0.5$  (see the main text) are safely within the liquid-liquid mixture region of the phase diagram.

#### **1.2** Ideal and excess contributions to the thermodynamic factor



Figure 2: The thermodynamic factor  $\Gamma$ , and its ideal  $\Gamma^{id}$  and excess  $\Gamma^{ex}$  contributions, as a function of mole fraction  $x_1$ . All results correspond to the FEP data.

We split  $\Gamma$  into its excess and ideal gas contributions,  $\Gamma^{\text{ex}}$  and  $\Gamma^{\text{id}}$  respectively (Fig. 2).  $\Gamma^{\text{id}} = x_1 (\partial \mu_1^{\text{id}} / \partial x_1)_{P,T} / (k_B T) = (x_1 / \rho_N) (\partial \rho_N / \partial x_1)_{P,T} + 1$  depends only on  $x_1$ , the total number density  $\rho_N$  and its derivative, while  $\Gamma^{\text{ex}} = x_1 (\partial \mu_1^{\text{ex}} / \partial x_1)_{P,T} / (k_B T)$  depends on the excess chemical potential  $\mu_1^{\text{ex}}$  and therefore the inter-particle interactions in the system.  $\Gamma^{\text{id}}$  monotonically decreases with increasing  $x_1$ , while  $\Gamma^{\text{ex}}$  possesses a minimum at  $x_1^{\min(\Gamma^{\text{ex}})} = 0.4 \pm 0.1$  as determined by fitting a cubic function. Thus, the minimum arises through  $\Gamma^{\text{ex}}$ , although its position is shifted by ~ 0.1 (to  $x_1 \sim 0.5$ ) due to the  $\Gamma^{\text{id}}$  contribution.

### 1.3 Theoretical models

We calculate the Soret coefficient according to the models of Haase<sup>4,5</sup>  $(S_T^{\rm H})$ , Kempers<sup>5</sup>  $(S_T^{\rm K})$ Shukla and Firoozabadi<sup>6</sup>  $(S_T^{\rm SF})$ , and Artola, Rousseau and Galliéro<sup>7</sup>  $(S_T^{\rm ARG})$ :

$$TS_{T,1}^{\rm H} = \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 x_1 + m_2 x_2} \frac{(h_2 - h_2^0)/m_2 - (h_1 - h_1^0)/m_1}{x_1 (\partial \mu_1 / \partial x_1)_{P,T}} + \frac{RT^2}{x_1 (\partial \mu_1 / \partial x_1)_{P,T}} S_T^0$$
(3)

$$TS_{T,1}^{\rm K} = \frac{v_1 v_2}{v_1 x_1 + v_2 x_2} \frac{(h_2 - h_2^0)/v_2 - (h_1 - h_1^0)/v_1}{x_1 (\partial \mu_1 / \partial x_1)_{P,T}} + \frac{RT^2}{x_1 (\partial \mu_1 / \partial x_1)_{P,T}} S_T^0$$
(4)

$$TS_{T,1}^{\rm SF} = \frac{u_1/\tau_1 - u_2/\tau_2}{x_1(\partial\mu_1/\partial x_1)_{P,T}} + \frac{(v_2 - v_1)(x_1u_1/\tau_1 + x_2u_2/\tau_2)}{(x_1v_1 + x_2v_2)x_1(\partial\mu_1/\partial x_1)_{P,T}}$$
(5)

$$TS_{T,1}^{\text{ARG}} = \frac{\Delta G_2^{\ddagger} - \Delta G_1^{\ddagger}}{RT} + \frac{m_2 - m_1}{m_2 + m_1} \frac{\Delta G_2^{\ddagger} + \Delta G_1^{\ddagger}}{RT}$$
(6)

where  $h_i$ ,  $u_i$  and  $v_i$  are the partial molar enthalpy, internal energy and volume of species i = 1, 2. R is the gas constant. The Kempers model was derived by considering a non-isothermal two-bulb system, with the main assumption that the stationary state is the macroscopic state with the maximum number of microstates. Within this model,  $S_T^{\rm K}$  corresponds to the centre-of-volume frame of reference, while Haase's earlier educated guess  $S_T^{\rm H}$  can be derived in the centre-of-mass frame.<sup>5</sup>  $h_i^0$  and  $S_T^0$  correspond to an ideal gas state at the same temperature (calculated from kinetic theory), and capture the kinetic contribution to  $S_T$ . The Shukla-Firoozabadi model was developed with its origins in linear non-equilibrium thermodynamics (LNET), along the same lines as earlier models<sup>8,9</sup> that all correlate the net heat of transport with the activation energy for viscous flow  $\Delta U_{\eta}^{\ddagger}$ . The parameter  $\tau_i = \Delta U_{c,i} / \Delta U_{\eta,i}^{\ddagger}$ , where  $\Delta U_c$  is the cohesive energy, is related to the size of the hole required for viscous flow (from the hole theory of liquids), and is often treated as an adjustable parameter. The Artola-Rousseau-Galliéro model is Prigogine's model  $(S_T^P)$  modified to include the mass contribution; for  $m_1 = m_2$  it reduces to  $S_{T,1}^{\text{ARG}} = S_{T,1}^{\text{P}} = (\Delta G_2^{\ddagger} - \Delta G_1^{\ddagger})/RT^2$ . In these two kinetic models, thermal diffusion is described as a coupled diffusion-activated process, for which the elementary process can be summarized as a swap between two particles of different species along a temperature gradient. The activation energies  $\Delta G_i^{\ddagger}$  were calculated from  $D_i = D_i^0 \exp\left(-\Delta G_i^{\ddagger}/RT\right)$  (see Fig. 3), where  $D_i^0$  is a constant and the self-diffusion coefficients  $D_i$  have been corrected for finite-size effects (see Sec. 2.6 below). The molecular motion of a component through the mixture is better identified with self-diffusion rather than viscous flow; the use of the latter was historically motivated by the scarcity of selfdiffusion data, even for pure components, and justified by the similar activation energies expected from Eyring's rate theory applied to liquids.<sup>10</sup> By using self-diffusion data, the Artola-Rousseau-Galliéro model represents a step forward in the modelling of thermal diffusion.



Figure 3: The Soret coefficient predicted by the Artola-Rousseau-Galliéro and Prigogine models,  $S_T^{\text{ARG/P}}$ , and related quantities. The self-diffusion coefficients  $D_i$  as a function of temperature T for species (a) i = 1 and (b) i = 2.  $\ln D_i$  vs.  $T^{-1}$  for species (c) i = 1 and (d) i = 2; the solid lines show linear fits to  $\ln D_i = \ln D_i^0 - \Delta G_i^{\dagger}/(k_B T)$ . (e) The activation energies  $\Delta G_i^{\dagger}$  and (e)  $S_T^{\text{ARG/P}}$  as a function of mole fraction  $x_1$ . Where error bars have not been shown, uncertainties are smaller than the size of the symbols.

A relevant question for the Shukla-Firoozabadi model is how to best estimate the parameters  $\tau_i$ . Different methods have been proposed, with varying levels of approximations.<sup>6,11–14</sup> The most crude but still a widely adopted<sup>15,16</sup> approach is to set  $\tau_1 = \tau_2 = 4.0$  or 3.5, stemming from the observation<sup>6</sup> that  $\Delta U_{\rm vap}/\Delta U_{\eta}^{\ddagger} = 3$ -4 for many non-associating liquids under normal boiling point conditions, where  $\Delta U_{\rm vap}$  is the energy of vaporization ( $\Delta U_{\rm vap}$  is an approximation



Figure 4:  $\ln(\eta_i)$  vs.  $\Delta U_c/(k_B T)$ , where  $\eta_i$  and  $\Delta U_c$  are the shear viscosity and cohesive energy of a pure liquid of species i = 1, 2. (a) Species 1 and (b) species 2. The solid lines show linear fits to  $\ln \eta_i = \ln A + U_c/(\tau_i k_B T)$ . The data points correspond to  $P = 0.46\epsilon\sigma^{-3}$  and  $T/(\epsilon k_B^{-1}) = 0.605$ , 0.61, 0.615, 0.62, 0.625 and 0.63.

to  $\Delta U_c$ ). While permissible for some mixtures, this approach is unsuitable for others and has been criticised.<sup>11,13,14</sup> In this work, we use the method originally proposed<sup>6</sup>, but not employed, by Shukla and Firoozabadi with the caveat that they used the approximation  $\Delta U_{\text{vap}} \approx \Delta U_c$ . As shown in Fig. 4, we calculate  $\tau_i$  of the pure components from  $\eta_i = A \exp(\Delta U_{\eta,i}^{\ddagger}/RT) =$  $A \exp(\Delta U_{c,i}/\tau_i RT)$ , where  $\eta_i$  is the shear viscosity, to give  $(\tau_1, \tau_2) = (3.3 \pm 0.1, 3.8 \pm 0.1)$ , and use these  $\tau_i$  for the entire composition range. This approach does not account for the composition dependence of  $\tau_i$ .

#### 1.4 Radial distribution functions



Figure 5: Radial distribution functions  $g_{ij}$  and coordination number  $n_{ij}$  of the Lennard-Jones mixtures: (a)  $g_{11}$  and  $n_{11}$ ; (b)  $g_{22}$  and  $n_{22}$ ; (c)  $g_{12}$  and  $n_{12}$ .  $r_{ij}$  is the radial distance between species *i* and *j*. Solid lines show  $g_{ij}$  (left axis) and the dashed lines show  $n_{ij}$  (right axis).

## 1.5 Thermal conductivity

It is well established that the Soret effect reduces the thermal conductivity of the mixture.<sup>17</sup> From LNET, the thermal conductivity  $\lambda$  is given in terms of the phenomenological coefficients  $L_{\alpha\beta}$  and  $L'_{\alpha\beta}$  as

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{T^2} \left( L_{qq} - \frac{L_{1q}L_{q1}}{L_{11}} \right) = \frac{1}{T^2} \left( L'_{qq} - \frac{L'_{1q}L'_{q1}}{L_{11}} \right)$$
(7)

where the enthalpic terms in the primed coefficients cancel exactly to give the same thermal conductivity as for the unprimed coefficients.  $\lambda$  can therefore be split into two contributions: (1) the thermal conductivity in the absence of coupling effects,  $\lambda_0 = L_{qq}/T^2$  or  $\lambda'_0 = L'_{qq}/T^2$ , and (2) the mass-heat coupling term,  $\delta \lambda = -L_{1q}L_{q1}/(L_{11}T^2)$  or  $\delta \lambda' = -L'_{1q}L'_{q1}/(L_{11}T^2)$ , such that  $\lambda = \lambda_0 + \delta \lambda = \lambda'_0 + \delta \lambda'$ . The Soret effect should always decrease  $\lambda$ , and thus  $\lambda = \lambda_0 - |\delta \lambda| =$  $\lambda'_0 - |\delta \lambda'|$ .

We show in Fig. 6 the thermal conductivity of the mixture, and the contribution due to heatmass coupling. The thermal conductivities calculated via NEMD and equilibrium-MD (EMD) are in excellent agreement. The thermal conductivity of the mixture decreases with increasing  $x_1$ .  $\lambda$  increases with density, consistent with the trend observed for simple fluids, including LJ fluids, along an isotherm. However, the density dependence of the mixture slightly deviates from the



Figure 6: Thermal conductivity  $\lambda$  of the Lennard-Jones mixture.  $\lambda$  as a function of (a) mole fraction  $x_1$  and (b) number density  $\rho_N$  as well as  $\rho_N^{2/3}$ . (c) The decrease in  $\lambda$  due to heat-mass coupling,  $|\delta\lambda|$  and  $\delta\lambda'$ . In (c), circles with dashed lines (--o--) show the absolute values (left axis) and downward triangles with dotted lines ( $\cdot \cdot \nabla \cdot \cdot$ ) show the values as a percentage of  $\lambda$ (right axis). Where error bars have not been shown, uncertainties are smaller than the size of the symbols.

 $\lambda \propto \rho_N^{2/3}$  scaling reported<sup>18</sup> for pure LJ fluids. The  $|\delta\lambda|$  and  $|\delta\lambda'|$  terms both feature a maximum, which is a direct consequence of the minimum in  $S_T$  and  $\Gamma$  (indeed,  $\delta\lambda' = -L'_{1q}S_T\Gamma k_B/m_1$  for  $m_1 = m_2$ ).  $|\delta\lambda|$  amounts to a reduction of ~1-3% relative to  $\lambda$  for  $0.1 \leq x_1 \leq 0.9$ , while  $|\delta\lambda'|$  is an order of magnitude smaller with values from 0 to 0.3%. The result that heat-mass coupling reduces the thermal conductivity by at most a few percent is consistent with previous studies<sup>19</sup> examining different LJ mixtures.

## 2 Physical properties from simulations

All simulations were performed using the software package LAMMPS<sup>20</sup> (v. 3 March 2020).

## 2.1 Equilibrium molecular dynamics simulations

Equilibrium molecular dynamics (EMD) simulations of the mixture were performed in the *NPT*, *NVT* and *NVE* ensembles, targeting various thermodynamic states. Unless stated otherwise (i.e. for the finite-size analyses) a cubic simulation cell containing 5000 particles was used. A timestep of  $0.002\tau$  was used for the *NPT* and *NVT* simulations. For the *NPT* and *NVT* simulations, temperature was controlled by the Nosé-Hoover chain thermostat, with 3 chains, and a time constant of 1  $\tau$ . Additionally in the *NPT* simulations, pressure was controlled using a Nosé-Hoover chain barostat, also with 3 chains, and a time constant of 4  $\tau$ . For the *NPT* simulations, a single replica was performed for each  $(x_1, P, T)$  state point, consisting of at least  $2 \times 10^4 \tau$ of equilibration, followed by a  $1-2\times10^5 \tau$  production run. For the *NVT* simulations, sampling consisted of 20-200 replicas for each  $(x_1, \rho, T)$  state point depending on the system size, which varied from N = 1000-120,000 particles; each replica was equilibrated for  $2 \times 10^3 \tau$  followed by  $10^4 \tau$  of production. The exceptions to this were the large  $N = 0.5-5 \times 10^6$  systems simulated for the KBIs (Sec. 2.8 below), which had both equilibration and production times of  $10^3\tau$ .

Simulations in the *NVE* ensemble targeted different compositions along the  $(P = 0.46 \ \epsilon \sigma^{-3}, T = 0.62 \ \epsilon k_{\rm B}^{-1})$  isobar-isotherm. For each state point, replicas were first spawned from *NVT* simulations and monitored for an initial  $2 \times 10^3 \tau$ . If the average temperature was within  $\pm 0.0005 \ \epsilon k_{\rm B}^{-1}$  of  $T = 0.62 \ \epsilon k_{\rm B}^{-1}$ , the replica was continued for a further  $2 \times 10^4 \tau$  of production. Replicas were also subsequently started from these successful *NVE* trajectories. A total of 50-100 statistically independent replicas were performed for each state point, all of which had an average temperature  $\langle T \rangle_{NVE}$  within  $\pm 0.0005 \ \epsilon k_{\rm B}^{-1}$  of the target temperature. A smaller timestep of  $\delta t = 0.001 \tau$  was used to improve energy conservation (reduce temperature drift) and therefore increase the sampling times available in the small  $\pm 0.0005 \ \epsilon k_{\rm B}^{-1}$  temperature window, and also to reduce the discretization error for the numerical integration of correlation functions (see secs. 2.4 & 2.6 below).

#### 2.2 Soret coefficient and thermal conductivity from NEMD

#### 2.2.1 Simulation details

The Soret coefficient  $S_T$  and thermal conductivity  $\lambda$  were calculated from boundary-driven nonequilibrium molecular dynamics simulations (NEMD) in the stationary state. An elongated (tetragonal) simulation cell of dimensions  $(L_x, L_y, L_z) = (20, 20, 30)\sigma$  was used, with 3D periodic boundary conditions. Two thermostatting regions, hot and cold, were located in the centre and edges of the simulation, respectively (see Fig. 7). The thermostatting regions had a width  $\Delta z = 3\sigma$  and extended over the entire (x, y) plane, such that the temperature gradients were generated along the z-direction. For the thermostatting procedure, a simple velocity rescaling algorithm was used to maintain the hot and cold thermostatting regions at temperatures  $T_h$ and  $T_c$ , respectively. The velocities of all particles in each region were rescaled, every timestep, by a factor  $\alpha = \sqrt{K_t/K_c}$  where  $K_t$  and  $K_c$  are the target and current kinetic energies of the region. This velocity rescaling procedure does not conserve linear momentum, so the system's centre-of-mass velocity was subtracted from each particle at every time step in order to ensure linear momentum conservation. A timestep of  $\delta t = 0.002 \tau$  was used.



Figure 7: Representative (a) temperature T and number density  $\rho_N$  profiles, and (b) mole fraction,  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , profiles for the NEMD simulations. The blue (cold) and red (hot) indicate the location of the thermostatting regions in the simulation cell.

For each system, the average density, mole fraction and thermostat temperatures were chosen to give  $\langle P_{zz} \rangle$  within  $\pm 0.001 \ \epsilon \sigma^{-3}$  of the target pressure  $P = 0.46 \ \epsilon \sigma^{-3}$ , where  $P_{zz}$  is the pressure tensor component parallel to the heat flux vector. Relatively small (by simulation standards) temperature differences  $\Delta T = T_h - T_c \approx 0.04 \ \epsilon k_B^{-1}$  and resulting gradients  $\nabla T \approx 2.9 \times 10^{-3} \ \epsilon k_B^{-1} \sigma^{-1}$ were used to accurately target the thermodynamic state. For each system, 10 statistically independent replicas were generated, each consisting of an initial  $2 \times 10^4 \tau$  to establish the stationary state, followed by  $2 \times 10^6 \tau$  for data collection.

In the stationary state, this set-up results in two equal but opposite temperature gradients, and therefore in equal and opposite heat fluxes, such that the system is completely periodic. The heat flux across the system,  $J_q = (0, 0, \pm J_q)$ , can be obtained from the continuity equation

$$J_q = \frac{|\langle \Delta U \rangle|}{2\delta t A} \tag{8}$$

where  $A = L_x \times L_y$  is the cross-sectional area of the simulation cell,  $\delta t$  is the timestep, and  $\Delta U$  is the internal energy exchanged at each timestep. The employed simple rescaling thermostat only changes the kinetic energy such that  $\Delta U = \Delta K$ . The factor of 2 in the denominator accounts for the two heat fluxes (equal magnitude and opposite direction) generated in this setup. The thermal conductivity  $\lambda$  was then calculated using Fourier's Law:

$$\boldsymbol{J}_q = -\lambda \nabla T \tag{9}$$

where  $\nabla T$  is the *local* temperature gradient. The Soret coefficient  $S_T$  was calculated using Eq. 1 in the main text, again employing local values of the gradients  $\nabla T$  and  $\nabla x_1$ . Local densities  $\rho$ , mol fractions  $x_1$  and temperatures T were determined from a  $1\sigma$  bin close to the centre of each *NVE* compartment. The position of the bin was chosen such that  $T = 0.62 \ \epsilon k_{\rm B}^{-1}$ . The local values of  $\nabla T$  and  $\nabla w_1$  were determined by fitting straight lines to the temperature and mole fraction profiles within a range of  $\pm 2.5\sigma$  around the selected state point.

#### 2.2.2 Linear response

We demonstrate in Fig. 8 that the magnitude of temperature gradients used in this work are within the linear regime. For these additional simulations, production runs of length  $1.5 \times 10^6 \tau$  and  $10^6 \tau$  were used for the  $\nabla T \approx 1.5 \times 10^{-3} \epsilon k_B^{-1} \sigma^{-1}$  and  $\nabla T \approx 4.4 \times 10^{-3} \epsilon k_B^{-1} \sigma^{-1}$  systems, respectively. The values for  $S_T$  and  $\lambda$  for  $x_1 = 0.5, 0.9$  were calculated by fitting to their linear response (Fig. 8).



Figure 8: Linear response of the Soret coefficient  $S_T$  and thermal conductivity  $\lambda$ : (a) mole fraction gradient  $\nabla x_1$ , (b)  $S_T$ , (c) heat flux  $J_q$  and (d)  $\lambda$  as a function of temperature gradient  $\nabla T$ . The solid lines show fits to  $\nabla x_1 = -x_1 x_2 S_T \nabla T$  in (a) and (b), and to Fourier's law  $-J_q = \lambda \nabla T$  in (c) and (d). In (a) and (c), statistical uncertainties are smaller than the size of the symbols. In (b) and (d) the shaded areas show the uncertainty associated with the fits.

#### 2.2.3 Finite-size effects

We show in Fig. 9 that the lateral simulation cell length  $L_{\perp} = L_x = L_y$  has a significant effect on  $S_T$ . While all but one  $(L_{\perp}/\sigma = 10, 20 \text{ for } x_1 = 0.3) S_T$  values agree to within their statistical uncertainties,  $|S_T|$  systematically decreases with  $L_{\perp}$ : by ~0-10% (~3-6%) when increasing  $L_{\perp}$ from  $10\sigma$  to  $20\sigma$  ( $20\sigma$  to  $40\sigma$ ). Nevertheless, fitting cubic functions to the  $L_{\perp}/\sigma = 10, 20, 40$ data gives  $x_1^{\min(S_T)} = 0.5 \pm 0.1$ , and further increasing  $L_{\perp}$  is not expected to significantly shift the position of the minimum. Finite-size effects in  $S_T$  are expected from those observed in selfdiffusion coefficients (Sec. 2.6 below) and  $D_{12}$ .<sup>21,22</sup> The impact of finite-size effects on  $D_T$  is less well known.

We do not observe appreciable finite-size effects for the thermal conductivity. This is consis-



Figure 9: Finite-size effects on the Soret coefficient  $S_T$  calculated from NEMD simulations.  $L_{\perp} = L_x = L_y$  is the length of the simulation cell in the direction perpendicular to the heat flux. Solid lines show cubic functions fit to  $S_T(x_1)$  where  $x_1$  is the mole fraction of species 1.

tent with the mechanism of thermal transport in molecular liquids (and liquid mixtures), which is dominated by collisions between nearest neighbors, setting a characteristic length scale for heat transport at  $\sim 1\sigma$ .

The additional simulations for  $L_{\perp} = 10\sigma$  and  $L_{\perp} = 40\sigma$  had production lengths of  $4 \times 10^6 \tau$ and  $3 \times 10^5 \tau$ , respectively.

## 2.3 Partial molar properties

Partial molar properties  $z_i$  were calculated using the equations  $z_1 = Z + (1 - x_1)(\partial Z/\partial x_1)_{PTN_2}$ and  $z_2 = Z - x_1(\partial Z/\partial x_1)_{PTN_2}$ , where Z is the corresponding extensive property.  $Z(x_1)$  were calculated from MD simulations in the NPT ensemble. At each selected  $x_1$ , two additional simulations were performed at  $x_1 \pm 0.01$ , and  $(\partial Z/\partial x_1)_{PTN_2}$  was then calculated by fitting a straight line through these three points.



Figure 10: Partial molar properties  $z_i$  of component i = 1, 2 as a function of mole fraction  $x_1$ : (a) partial molar enthalpy  $h_i$ ; (b) partial molar internal energy  $u_i$ ; and (c) partial molar volume  $v_i$ . Statistical uncertainties are smaller or comparable to the size of the symbols.

#### 2.4 Onsager's phenomenological coefficients

The phenomenological coefficients  $L_{\alpha\beta}$  were calculated using the Green-Kubo integral formula

$$L_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{V}{3k_{\rm B}} \lim_{t' \to \infty} \int_0^{t'} \langle \boldsymbol{J}_{\alpha}(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{J}_{\beta}(0) \rangle dt \tag{10}$$

where V is the volume of the simulation cell, and the factor of 3 in the denominator averages the contributions from each spatial dimension. In order to calculate  $L_{qq}$ ,  $L_{1q}$ ,  $L_{q1}$  and  $L_{11}$ , the expressions for the heat flux  $J_q$  and mass flux  $J_1$  in terms of microscopic quantities are required. These are:

$$\boldsymbol{J}_1 = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{i=1}^{N_1} m_i \boldsymbol{v}_i \tag{11}$$

where the sum runs over all  $N_1$  particles of species 1, and in the case of two-body interactions the Irving-Kirkwood formula for heat flux is

$$\boldsymbol{J}_{q} = \frac{1}{V} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N} U_{i} \boldsymbol{v}_{i} - \sum_{i=1}^{N} \boldsymbol{S}_{i} \boldsymbol{v}_{i} \right) = \frac{1}{V} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\mathcal{V}_{i} + K_{i}) \boldsymbol{v}_{i} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j \neq i}^{N} (\boldsymbol{v}_{i} \cdot \boldsymbol{F}_{ij}) \boldsymbol{r}_{ij} \right)$$
(12)

where  $U_i$  is the per-particle internal energy which can be split into potential  $\mathcal{V}_i = (1/2) \sum_{j \neq i} u_{ij}(r_{ij})$ and kinetic energy  $K_i = (1/2)m_i v_i^2$  contributions;  $S_i$  is the per-particle stress tensor;  $F_{ij}$  is the force exerted on particle *i* by particle *j*; and  $r_{ij} = r_j - r_i$  where  $r_i$  is the position vector of particle *i*.

The unprimed coefficients were calculated from simulations in the NVE ensemble. A correlation time of  $t_c = 10\tau$  was used for the upper limit of Eq. 10. Selecting this integration limit is a compromise between sampling efficiency and minimizing the resulting truncation error. We show



Figure 11: (a) Correlation functions  $\langle \mathbf{J}_{\alpha}(t) \cdot \mathbf{J}_{\beta}(0) \rangle$  as a function of time lag t. (b) Convergence of the phenomenological coefficients  $L_{\alpha\beta}(t_c)$  with the correlation time  $t_c$  used as the upper limit of the integral in Eq. 10. In (a)(ii) and (b)(ii): solid lines show  $\langle \mathbf{J}_1(t) \cdot \mathbf{J}_q(0) \rangle$  and  $L_{1q}$ ; dotted lines show  $\langle \mathbf{J}_q(t) \cdot \mathbf{J}_1(0) \rangle$  and  $L_{q1}$ 

in Fig. 11 that 10  $\tau$  is sufficiently long to achieve a well-converged integral, while the exhaustive extent of our sampling is reflected in the associated uncertainty.

The primed coefficients  $L'_{\alpha\beta}$  were then obtained from  $L_{\alpha\beta}$  using the formulas

$$L'_{qq} = L_{qq} - (L_{1q} + L_{q1})(h_{s,1} - h_{s,2}) + L_{11}(h_{s,1} - h_{s,2})^2$$
(13)

$$L'_{1q} = L_{1q} - L_{11}(h_{s,1} - h_{s,2}) \tag{14}$$

$$L'_{q1} = L_{q1} - L_{11}(h_{s,1} - h_{s,2})$$
(15)

$$L_{11}' = L_{11} \tag{16}$$

where  $h_{s,i}$  is the specific molar enthalpy of component i = 1, 2. These formulas can be derived by comparing expressions for entropy production in LNET, or trivially from the Green-Kubo integral formula (Eq. 10) noting that  $J'_q = J_q - (h_{s,1} - h_{s,2})J_1$ .<sup>19,23</sup> The difference between  $J'_q$ and  $J_q$  corresponds to the heat transported due to diffusion.

We show in Fig. 12 the values of coefficients  $L_{\alpha\beta}$  and  $L'_{\alpha\beta}$ . Consistent with Onsager's reciprocal relations,  $L'_{1q} = L'_{q1}$  and  $L_{1q} = L_{q1}$  to within their associated uncertainties. We therefore average over both reciprocal coefficients to give a single value each for  $L'_{1q} = L'_{q1}$  and  $L_{1q} = L_{q1}$ .

![](_page_16_Figure_2.jpeg)

Figure 12: The phenomenological coefficients as a function of the mole fraction  $x_1$ : (a)  $L_{qq}$  and  $L'_{qq}$ ; (b)  $L_{1q} = L_{q1}$ ; (c)  $L_{11}$ ; and (d)  $L'_{1q} = L'_{q1}$ . (e) The difference in specific partial enthalpies  $h_{s,1} - h_{s,2}$ , where  $h_{s,i}$  is the specific partial enthalpy of component *i*. Where error bars are not shown, the statistical uncertainty is smaller than the size of the symbol.

### 2.5 Chemical potentials

The chemical potential of species *i* was calculated in terms of its ideal (id) and excess (ex) contributions,  $\mu_i = \mu_i^{id} + \mu_i^{ex}$ . The ideal gas contribution  $\mu_i^{id}$  is given by the formula

$$\mu_i^{\rm id} = k_B T \ln\left(\rho_{N,i} \Lambda_i^3\right) \tag{17}$$

where  $\rho_{N,i} = x_i \rho_N$  and  $\Lambda_i$  are the number density and thermal de Broglie wavelength of species i, respectively. The densities were obtained from MD simulations in the *NPT* ensemble. By

convention we set  $\Lambda_2 = h/\sqrt{2\pi m_2 k_B T} = 1 \Rightarrow \ln(\Lambda_2^3) = 0$  (note that  $\Lambda_1 = \Lambda_2$  since  $m_1 = m_2$ ) for  $T = 0.62 \ \epsilon k_B^{-1}$ , and in doing so fix the energy scale by assigning a value to Planck's constant h in Lennard-Jones units. This amounts to a constant shift in  $\mu_i$  and does not affect  $(\partial \mu_i/\partial x_1)_{P,T}$ .

The excess chemical potential  $\mu_i^{\text{ex}}$  was calculated from MD simulations at constant T and P using a free energy perturbation (FEP) method. A single particle was inserted into the simulation cell via (n-1) small "steps" along a reversible alchemical thermodynamic path, analogous to slowly "growing" the particle. The Gibbs free energy change for this particle insertion,  $\Delta_N^{N+1}G^{\text{ex}}$ , is given by

$$\mu_i^{\text{ex}} \approx \Delta_N^{N+1} G^{\text{ex}} = -k_B T \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \ln \frac{\langle V \exp\left(-\Delta_{\zeta_i}^{\zeta_i+1} \mathcal{V}/k_B T\right) \rangle_{\zeta_i}}{\langle V \rangle_{\zeta_i}}$$
(18)

where V is the volume of the simulation cell,  $\Delta_{\zeta_i}^{\zeta_{i+1}} \mathcal{V}(\zeta, \mathbf{r}) = \mathcal{V}_{\zeta_{i+1}}(\zeta, \mathbf{r}) - \mathcal{V}_{\zeta_i}(\zeta, \mathbf{r})$  and  $\zeta$  is a coupling parameter that connects the reference (N) and perturbed (N + 1) systems according to  $\mathcal{V}(\zeta, \mathbf{r}) = \zeta \mathcal{V}_{N+1}(\mathbf{r}) + (1-\zeta)\mathcal{V}_N(\mathbf{r})$ , with  $\zeta$  taking values from 0 to 1. In order to avoid singularities when  $\zeta \to 0$ , the FEP simulations were performed using a soft-core version<sup>24</sup> of the Lennard-Jones potential (LJSC)

$$\mathcal{V}_{ij}^{\text{LJSC}}(r;\zeta,n,\alpha) = \zeta^n 4\epsilon_{ij} \left\{ \frac{1}{\left[\alpha(1-\zeta)^2 + (r/\sigma_{ij})^6\right]^2} - \frac{1}{\alpha(1-\zeta)^2 + (r/\sigma_{ij})^6} \right\}$$
(19)

truncated and shifted at a cutoff radius of  $r_c = 2.5\sigma$  such that  $\mathcal{V}_{ij}^{\text{LJSCTS}}(r) = (\mathcal{V}_{ij}^{\text{LJSC}}(r) - \mathcal{V}_{ij}^{\text{LJSC}}(r_c))\theta(r_c - r)$  with  $\theta$  being the Heaviside step function. Values of n = 1 and scaling constant  $\alpha = 0.5$  were used. For  $\zeta = 1$ , Eq. 19 reduces to the standard Lennard-Jones potential, and in the limit  $\zeta \to 0$  no work is required to change from  $\alpha = 0$  to  $0 < \alpha < \infty$  (i.e. the two potentials have equivalent initial states). Therefore, the soft-core version gives the same free energy difference as the standard LJ (or LJTS) potential.<sup>24</sup>

Each FEP simulation used a cubic simulation cell containing 5000 particles, and additionally the single particle being inserted. The systems were equilibrated for  $20\tau$  in the *NVT* ensemble, then for  $2 \times 10^{3}\tau$  in the *NPT* ensemble. The particle insertion was then performed in steps of  $0.01\zeta$  over a  $10^{4}\tau$  production run. A timestep of  $0.002\tau$  was used. Temperature (pressure) was controlled using the Nosé-Hoover chain thermostat (barostat), with 3 chains, and a time constant of  $1\tau$  ( $5\tau$ ). Sampling consisted of 1700-2000 replicas for  $\mu_{1}^{\text{ex}}$ , and 500-600 replicas for  $\mu_{2}^{\text{ex}}$ .

The chemical potentials and the derivative  $(\partial \mu_1 / \partial x_1)_{P,T} = (\partial \mu_1^{\rm id} / \partial x_1)_{P,T} + (\partial \mu_1^{\rm ex} / \partial x_1)_{P,T}$ are shown in Fig. 13.  $(\partial \mu_1^{\rm id} / \partial x_1)_{P,T}$  and  $(\partial \mu_1^{\rm ex} / \partial x_1)_{P,T}$  were evaluated at  $x_1$  by fitting a straight line through the three points within  $x_1 \pm 0.01$  and  $x_1 \pm 0.05$ , respectively.

![](_page_18_Figure_0.jpeg)

Figure 13: The chemical potential and its derivative as a function of mole fraction  $x_i$ . (a) Total  $\mu_i$ , ideal  $\mu_i^{\text{id}}$  and excess  $\mu_i^{\text{ex}}$  chemical potentials  $\mu_i$  of species i = 1, 2. (b)  $(\partial \mu_1 / \partial x_1)_{P,T}$  and its ideal and excess contributions. In (a), statistical uncertainties are smaller than the size of the symbols.

## 2.6 Self-diffusion coefficients and shear viscosity

The self-diffusion coefficients  $D_i$  of species i = 1, 2 were calculated from the average mean square displacement (MSD) using the Einstein relation

$$D_{i} = \frac{1}{2d} \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{\langle |\boldsymbol{r}_{i}(t+t_{0}) - \boldsymbol{r}_{i}(t_{0})|^{2} \rangle}{t}$$
(20)

where  $\mathbf{r}_i$  is the position vector of a particle of species *i*, *t* is the elapsed time from arbitrary starting time  $t_0$ , and d = 3 is the number of spatial dimensions.  $D_i$  was therefore calculated by fitting to the equation  $\langle |\mathbf{r}_i(t) - \mathbf{r}_i(0)|^2 \rangle = 6tD_i$ , excluding the first 10  $\tau$  of data to ensure only the diffusive regime was sampled (as opposed to the ballistic regime). In order to account for finite-size effects, the "infinite-size" diffusion coefficient  $D_{i,0}$  was calculated by extrapolation to  $L^{-1} = 0$ , where *L* is the length of the cubic simulation cell. This finite-size analysis is shown in Fig. 14, and follows from the equation derived by Yeh and Hummer<sup>25</sup> using a simple hydrodynamic model of a particle surrounded by a solvent of viscosity  $\eta_{\rm YH}$  in a periodically replicated simulation cell,

$$D_{i,\text{PBC}} = -\frac{\xi k_{\text{B}} T}{6\pi \eta_{\text{YH}}} L^{-1} + D_{i,0}$$
(21)

where  $D_{i,\text{PBC}}$  are the finite-size diffusion coefficients calculated from our MD simulations, and  $\xi$  is a dimensionless constant equal to 2.837297 for a cubic simulation cell with 3D periodic boundary

![](_page_19_Figure_0.jpeg)

Figure 14: Self-diffusion coefficients and shear viscosities of the Lennard-Jones mixtures. (a) Mean-square displacement (MSD) vs. time t for the  $x_1 = 0.5$  and N = 1000 system. (b) Finitesize analysis for the  $x_1 = 0.5$  mixture:  $D_{i,\text{PBC}}$  is the finite-size diffusion coefficient of species iand L is the length of the cubic simulation cell. Symbols: circles ( $\circ$ ) and diamonds ( $\diamond$ ) show the data from NVT and NVE MD simulations, respectively. Solid lines show a linear fit to the NVT data; dashed lines show a straight line through the single NVE data point with the gradient determined from  $\eta_{\text{GK}}$ . (c) The viscosities  $\eta$  as a function of mole fraction  $x_1$ , as determined from the different methods (see main text). (d) "Infinite-size" diffusion coefficients  $D_{i,0}$  of species i as a function of  $x_1$ .  $D_{i,0}$  from the two methods, NVT simulations with direct extrapolation ( $\eta_{\text{YH}}$ ) and NVE simulations with  $\eta_{\text{GK}}$ , cannot be distinguished on the scale of the plot. Where error bars are not explicitly shown, the statistical uncertainty is smaller than the size of the symbol.

conditions.<sup>25</sup> The same expression was obtained earlier<sup>26</sup> by Dünweg and Kremer using a closely related derivation. For each state point, the i = 1 and i = 2 data sets were simultaneously fit to Eq. 21, giving a single viscosity  $\eta_{\text{YH}}$  for the mixture.

The shear viscosity  $\eta$  was additionally calculated using the Green-Kubo integral formula

$$\eta_{GK} = \frac{V}{k_{\rm B}T} \lim_{t' \to \infty} \int_0^{t'} \langle P_{\alpha\beta}(t) P_{\alpha\beta}(0) \rangle dt$$
(22)

![](_page_20_Figure_0.jpeg)

Figure 15: (a) Autocorrelation functions  $\langle P_{\alpha\beta}(t)P_{\alpha\beta}(0)\rangle$  as a function of time lag t. (b) Convergence of shear viscosity  $\eta(t_c)$  with the correlation time  $t_c$  used as the upper limit of the integral in Eq. 22.

where  $\alpha \neq \beta$  such that  $P_{\alpha\beta}$  are the off-diagonal elements of the pressure tensor. Results were averaged over  $(\alpha, \beta) = (x, y)$ , (x, z) and (y, z). A correlation time of  $t_c = 10\tau$  was used for the upper limit of the integral, which is sufficient to obtain well-converged integrals (see Fig. 15).

In order to accurately target a specific thermodynamic states when calculating  $D_{i,\text{PBC}}$ , the NVT ensemble was sampled using a temperature-control algorithm that alters dynamics compared to the Newtonian dynamics of the NVE ensemble. It is therefore necessary to check whether the employed global Nosé–Hoover (three chains) thermostat affects the computed self-diffusion coefficients. We show in Fig. 14(b)&(c) that it does not: all diffusion coefficients and viscosities calculated from NVT and NVE simulations, and using the different methods (Eqs. 21&22) agree to within their associated uncertainties. This is consistent with previous work that shows that "global" velocity scaling thermostats, including the Nosé–Hoover-chain thermostat, do not significantly alter diffusion coefficients or viscosity.<sup>27,28</sup>

### 2.7 Kirkwood-Buff integrals from grand canonical Monte Carlo

KBIs were calculated from grand canonical Monte Carlo simulations. For each simulation, the temperature of the ideal gas reservoir was set to  $T = 0.62 \ \epsilon k_B^{-1}$ , and the input chemical potentials  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  were determined from the free-energy perturbation simulations described in Sec. 2.5. In all cases, a cubic simulation cell with length  $L = 20\sigma$  was used. Each MC step, 100 trial displacement and 100 trial exchanges (insertions or deletions with equal probability) were attempted. For the displacement moves, a maximum translation distance of  $1.0\sigma$  was allowed.

Trial moves were accepted/rejected using the standard Metropolis criterion. Each replica was first equilibrated in an NVT MD simulation at the target  $x_1$  and  $\rho_N$  for 200  $\tau$ , followed by  $10^5$  MC steps, and finally a production run of  $10^7$  MC steps. Sampling consisted of 400-500 statistically independent replicas for each state point.

The Kirkwood-Buff integrals  $G_{ij}$  were calculated from the particle number fluctuations according to

$$G_{ij} = V \frac{\langle N_i N_j \rangle - \langle N_i \rangle \langle N_j \rangle}{\langle N_i \rangle \langle N_j \rangle} - V \frac{\delta_{ij}}{\langle N_j \rangle}$$
(23)

where  $N_i$  is the number of particles of species *i* and *V* is the volume of the simulation cell. The average pressures are within  $\pm 0.008\epsilon\sigma^{-3}$  of  $P = 0.46 \epsilon\sigma^{-3}$ , corresponding to differences in number density on the order of  $\delta\rho_N \sim 10^{-4}\sigma^{-3}$  relative to those calculated from *NPT* MD simulations (see Fig. 1(a)). Differences in  $G_{ij}$  and subsequently  $\Gamma$  due to the slightly different thermodynamic states being sampled are expected to be insignificant compared to their associated statistical uncertainties.

# 2.8 Kirkwood-Buff integrals from molecular dynamics (NVT) simulations

For an infinitely large and open three-dimensional system, the KBI for mixture components iand j is defined as

$$G_{ij} = 4\pi \int_0^\infty [g_{ij}^{\mu VT}(r) - 1] r^2 dr$$
(24)

where r is the radial distance between particles i and j. The infinite-size KBIs were calculated from a finite-size analysis of finite-volume KBIs

$$G_{ij}^{V} = \int_{V} [g_{ij}^{\mu VT}(r) - 1] w(r) dr$$
(25)

defined for finite and open subvolumes embedded in a reservoir.<sup>29</sup> For spherical symmetry  $w(r) = 4\pi r^2(1 - 3x/2 + x^3/2)$  valid for x < 1, where x = r/(2R) and R is the radius of the subvolume.  $g_{ij}^{\mu VT}$  is the pair correlation function in the thermodynamic limit. It has been shown that  $G_{ij}^V$  scales linearly with  $R^{-1}$  and that the infinite-size  $G_{ij}$  can be obtained by extrapolating the linear regime to  $R^{-1} = 0.^{29-31}$ 

We calculate the RDFs from simulations of  $N = 10^5$  to  $N = 5 \times 10^6$  particles in the NVT ensemble. Because fluctuations transform between ensembles,  $g_{ij}^{\mu VT}$  cannot be formally replaced with  $g_{ij}^{NVT}$ . However, for a sufficiently large system, the correlation lengths of particle density

![](_page_22_Figure_0.jpeg)

Figure 16: Extrapolation of the finite-volume Kirkwood-Buff integrals  $G_{ij}^V$  to  $R^{-1} = 0$ , where R is the radius of the subvolume: (a)  $G_{11}^V$ , (b)  $G_{22}^V$  and (c)  $G_{12}^V$ . The data shown corresponds to mole fraction  $x_1 = 0.5$  and a system size of  $N = 5 \times 10^6$  particles. Symbols: circles ( $\cdots \circ \cdots$ ) and downward triangles ( $\cdots \bigtriangledown \cdots$ ) denote the use of pair correlation function  $g_{ij}$  (uncorrected) and the corrected  $g_{ij}^{GV}$ , respectively, although these cannot be easily distinguished on the scale of the plots.

fluctuations are small compared to the linear dimension of the simulation cell, and local correlations are expected to be well reproduced. In addition to a large system size, we apply the tail correction<sup>31</sup> of Ganguly and van der Vegt to ensure the correct asymptotic limit ( $\lim_{r\to\infty} g_{ij} = 1$ ) of the RDF.

$$g_{ij}^{GV}(r) = g_{ij}(r) \left( \frac{N_j h(r)}{N_j h(r) - n_{ij}^{ex}(r) - \delta_{ij}} \right)$$
(26)

$$h(r) = 1 - \frac{4\pi r^3}{3V} \tag{27}$$

where  $N_j$  is the total number of particles j in the simulation cell of volume V. However, we note that in our simulations, this correction does not have an appreciable effect on the linear regime and subsequently the extrapolated  $G_{ij}$  (see Fig. 16). Other corrections<sup>32,33</sup> to the RDFs for calculating KBIs have been proposed; the correction of Ganguly and van der Vegt was found to be the most accurate for a WCA system, relative to a larger reference system ( $L = 80\sigma$ ).<sup>30</sup>

We show in Fig. 17 a finite-size analysis of the infinite-size KBIs. The final values for  $G_{ij}$  in the main text were taken from the largest system size, and the associated uncertainties were estimated from the convergence with system size.

![](_page_23_Figure_0.jpeg)

Figure 17: Finite-size analysis of the infinite-size Kirkwood-Buff integrals  $G_{ij}$  as a function of simulation cell length L, for different mole fractions  $x_1$ . (a)  $G_{11}$ , (b)  $G_{22}$ , (c)  $G_{12}$ , and (d) thermodynamic factor  $\Gamma$ .

### 2.9 Melting points of the pure components

The melting temperatures  $T_m$  of the pure components i = 1, 2 were determined using the direct coexistence method in the  $NP_zT$  ensemble. This involves preparing a solid-liquid interface at a given (T, P) state point and observing whether the system completely melts, freezes, or remains in coexistence. In MD simulations, cooling a homogeneous liquid below its melting point usually results in a metastable supercooled liquid; freezing is not observed unless prohibitively long simulations are performed. Likewise, heating a solid slightly above its melting point results in a superheated solid. The presence of the interface lowers the kinetic barrier for melting/freezing. First, the densities of the solid and liquid phases were determined from NPT simulations. Initial configurations were prepared by joining two half-boxes, one of the FCC-solid the other of the liquid, each containing N = 5324 particles and equilibrated in the NVT ensemble. The combined N = 10648 system was then equilibrated for  $20\tau$ , ensuring that the solid phase did not melt by restraining each solid particle to its equilibrium position  $\mathbf{r}_0$  with a harmonic potential,  $\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{r}) = k(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0)^2/2$  of force constant  $k = 10 \epsilon \sigma^{-2}$ . A  $4 \times 10^4 \tau$  production run in the  $NP_zT$ ensemble was then performed, applying a barostat only to the direction parallel to the surface normal (the z-direction). A Nosé-Hoover chain barostat was used, with 3 chains, and a time constant of 4  $\tau$ . Likewise, a Nosé-Hoover chain thermostat was used, also with 3 chains, and a time constant of 1  $\tau$ . Sampling consisted of an initial 10 statistically independent replicas, followed by an additional 40 replicas if the initial set did not all either melt or freeze. In all cases, a homogeneous phase was observed by the end of the production run.

The simulations were performed in the  $NP_zT$  ensemble, and as such the simulation cell dimensions  $(L_x \text{ and } L_y)$  were chosen to be consistent with the density of the solid at the (T, P) state point. Otherwise, the solid phase would possess internal stress,<sup>34,35</sup> corresponding to a higher free energy, and resulting in the overestimation of the coexistence pressure and/or underestimation of the melting temperature.

Each replica was determined to have either frozen or melted using the  $Q_6$  (l = 6) bondorientational order parameter. The Steinhardt order parameters  $Q_l$  were introduced to characterize local orientational order in atomic structures,<sup>36</sup> and are given by

$$Q_{l} = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{2l+1}} \sum_{m=-l}^{+l} \bar{Y}_{lm} \bar{Y}_{lm}^{*}$$
(28)

$$\bar{Y}_{lm} = \frac{1}{N_n} \sum_{j=1}^{N_n} Y_{lm}(\theta(\mathbf{r}_{ij}), \phi(\mathbf{r}_{ij}))$$
(29)

for each particle *i*, where  $Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$  are the spherical harmonics,  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  are the polar angles of "bond" vector  $\mathbf{r}_{ij}$  between *i* and neighbour *j*, and  $N_n$  is the number of nearest neighbours to particle *i*.  $Q_l$  is therefore a rotationally invariant non-negative amplitude.  $Q_l$  adopt welldefined values for high-symmetry structures; for a perfect FCC crystal  $(Fm\bar{3}m)$  and  $N_n = 12$ ,  $Q_6 = 0.575.^{37}$  We show in Fig. 18 that the  $Q_6$  order parameter can be used to distinguish between the FCC solid and liquid phases. The replica was determined to have frozen if  $\langle Q_6 \rangle > 0.496$ , or melted if  $\langle Q_6 \rangle < 0.375$ . The average  $\langle Q_6 \rangle$  was taken over the last 10  $\tau$  of the trajectory.

In the thermodynamic limit, a solid melts at  $T > T_m$ , and a liquid freezes for  $T < T_m$ . However, a finite-size system may stochastically melt or freeze with probabilities  $P_m$  and  $P_f$  =

![](_page_25_Figure_0.jpeg)

Figure 18: Melting points of the pure components determined using the direct coexistence method. (a) Snapshot of the simulation cell in the process of melting/freezing. (b) Lennard-Jones liquids and FCC solids at temperatures T characterized by their average  $Q_6$  order parameter. Species 1 (species 2) is shown in red (blue) and on the left (right) axis. (c) Probability of freezing  $P_f$  as a function of temperature T for species 1 (left) and 2 (right). Solid lines show the fitted sigmoid-like functions (Eq. 30).

 $1 - P_m$  respectively. For each component,  $T_m$  was determined by fitting  $P_f(T)$  to the sigmoid-like function (Fig. 18):

$$P_f(T) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \tanh\left[(T - T_m)/d\right]$$
(30)

where d controls the sharpness of the probability profile, with  $\delta_{10-90} = 2.178d$  being the width of the interval where  $P_f$  goes from 0.1 to 0.9. The melting (coexistence) temperature is defined by  $P_m(T_m) = P_f(T_m) = 0.5$ . The melting temperatures are shown in Table 1 alongside other coexistence properties (coexistence densities and enthalpies were determined by interpolating data from the NPT simulations).

Table 1: Solid-liquid coexistence properties of the pure LJ components at  $P = 0.46 \ \epsilon \sigma^{-3}$ : the melting temperature  $T_m$ ; coexistence number densities of the FCC solid and liquid phases,  $\rho_{N,s}$  and  $\rho_{N,l}$ , respectively; and the enthalpy of fusion  $\Delta H_{\text{fus}}$ 

	Species	$T_m \; [\epsilon k_{\rm B}^{-1}]$	$\rho_{N,s} \left[ \sigma^{-3} \right]$	$\rho_{N,l} \ [\sigma^{-3}]$	$\Delta H_{\rm fus} \ [\epsilon]$
•	1	0.4115(5)	0.9550(2)	0.8500(3)	0.523(3)
	2	0.6598(3)	0.9509(1)	0.8419(2)	0.927(3)

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