

Velocity of Sound in Liquid Propane*

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Sound velocity measurements on liquid propane from 90 to 300 K and for pressures to 34 MPa are reported. Also included are saturated liquid sound velocities from 90 to 290 K. The data were combined with $P\rho T$ data to compute compressibility and specific heat ratio. Comparisons were made to computed values of sound velocity of Goodwin and to the data of Lacam.

Key words: Adiabatic compressibility; liquid; pressure; propane; sound; specific heat ratios; speed; temperature; velocity.

1. Introduction

Thermodynamic and transport properties of propane are valuable to the energy industry in the design calculations relating to the handling, transporting, and storage of liquefied natural gas. The data of this paper were obtained as part of a program to provide accurate thermodynamic properties data for propane to support the energy industry, especially the liquefied natural gas industry.

Measurements of sound velocity were made from 90 K to 290 K in the saturated liquid and from 90 K to 300 K and at pressures to 34 MPa in the compressed liquid.

Sound velocities, W , were related to the adiabatic compressibility, k , using

$$W = (\rho k_s)^{-1/2} \quad (1)$$

and to the specific heat ratio, γ , using

$$W = (\gamma \frac{\partial P}{\partial \rho})_T^{1/2}, \quad (2)$$

where P , ρ and T are pressure, density, and temperature respectively.

2. Experimental Procedure

Sound velocities were measured using a pulse superposition method. Pulses were generated with a 10 MHz quartz crystal and were allowed to reflect between a matched crystal mounted plane and parallel to the generating

crystal. Pulses were generated at a rate such that the reflected pulses were superposed with the new pulses. This condition is detected with an oscilloscope by maximizing the resulting reinforced waveshape as seen by the receiving crystal. This technique, developed by Greenspan and Tschiegg [1],¹ has been used on hydrogen [2], oxygen [3], fluorine [4], methane [5], and ethane [6] in this laboratory and the apparatus is described in detail in the earlier publications. Uncertainty in the measured sound velocities is estimated to be 0.05 percent. Temperatures were measured using a platinum resistance thermometer calibrated by the National Bureau of Standards on the IPTS 1968. Uncertainty in temperature is estimated to be 0.005 K at the lower temperatures and increasing to 0.03 K at 300 K⁶.

The sample propane was commercially available ultra high purity grade (99.97 mole percent propane).

3. Results

Experimental values of sound velocity and temperature for the saturated liquid are given in table I with the corresponding values of density, compressibility, and specific heat ratio. Table II gives the same quantities for the compressed liquid with the measured values of pressure on isotherms. Isotherms were at 10 K increments from 90 to 120 K and at 20 K increments from 120 to 300 K, and for pressures to 34 MPa. Densities, corresponding to the measured values of temperature and pressure were computed from the recent $P\rho T$ surface of Goodwin [7,8]. These data are shown in figure 1.

Experimental uncertainty in compressibility of 0.3 percent is a result of the combined uncertainties in density and

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¹ Figures in brackets indicate literature references at the end of this paper.

sound velocity. The corresponding uncertainty for the specific heat ratio, γ , is 4 percent which is due to the uncertainty in the derivative $(-\frac{\partial P}{\partial \rho})_T$. Ethane has very low compressibility in the liquid phase, certainly so when compared with methane [5] and even with ethane [6]. The very rapid increase in pressure with respect to density puts considerable demands on the ability of the $P_Q T$ surface to produce this derivative accurately since a small uncertainty in density corresponds to a very much larger uncertainty in pressure. The uncertainty in the density measurements on which the $P_Q T$ is based will reflect in a much larger uncertainty in a calculated pressure and even more uncertainty in a calculated value of the derivative $(-\frac{\partial P}{\partial \rho})_T$.

Lacam [9] has measured sound velocities at 298.15 K (25 °C) and at 25 K increments to 498.15 K (225 °C) for pressures to 101 MPa. Figure 2 shows a comparison of his 25 C isotherm to the 280 K and 300 K isotherms of this report, where Goodwin's [8] computed sound velocities were used to make the comparison. It can be seen that there is about 0.2 to 0.3 percent difference in the two sets of measurements, which is within the combined uncertainties of the measurements Lacam estimated his uncertainties at 0.3 percent in sound velocity exclusive of temperature and pressure uncertainty contributions.

4. References

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TABLE I. Experimental values of saturated liquid sound velocity, W_E , and temperature, T , with values of sound velocity, W_c , and density, ρ , computed from the $P_Q T$ surface [ref. 7, 8]. The adiabatic compressibility, K_s , and heat capacity ratio, γ , were computed from W_E and $P_Q T$ derived properties.

T K	W_E m/s	W_c m/s	Δ %	ρ mol/L	K_s GPa ⁻¹	γ
90.0	2106.2	2115.8	0.46	16.52	0.309	1.366
100.0	2037.6	2020.8	-0.82	16.29	.335	1.418
110.0	1969.2	1932.5	-1.86	16.06	.364	1.462
120.0	1900.8	1849.7	-2.69	15.83	.396	1.500
130.0	1832.6	1771.3	-3.34	15.61	.433	1.531
140.0	1764.9	1696.6	-3.87	15.37	.474	1.557
150.0	1697.4	1625.1	-4.26	15.14	.520	1.578
160.0	1630.3	1556.1	-4.55	14.91	.572	1.594
170.0	1563.3	1489.3	-4.74	14.68	.632	1.606
180.0	1496.5	1424.3	-4.82	14.44	.701	1.615
190.0	1430.0	1360.9	-4.83	14.20	.781	1.620
200.0	1364.4	1298.7	-4.81	13.95	.873	1.625
210.0	1298.5	1237.6	-4.69	13.71	.981	1.626
230.0	1167.1	1117.6	-4.25	13.20	1.261	1.623
250.0	1036.5	999.3	-3.59	12.66	1.667	1.618
260.0	971.6	940.4	-3.20	12.37	1.941	1.617
270.0	905.4	881.5	-2.65	12.08	2.290	1.614
290.0	775.1	762.2	-1.67	11.44	3.298	1.624

TABLE II. Experimental values of compressed liquid sound velocity, W_E , temperature T , and pressure, P . Sound velocity, W_c , and density, ρ , were computed from the P ρ T surface (ref. 7,8). Adiabatic compressibility, K_s , and specific heat ratio were computed from W_E and properties derived from the P ρ T surface.

W_E m/s	W_c m/s	Δ %	P MPa	T K	ρ mol/L	K_s GPa ⁻¹	γ
2205.44	2337.55	5.99	34.83	90.00	16.739	0.279	1.218
2196.20	2316.63	5.48	31.43	90.00	16.719	.281	1.231
2190.77	2304.92	5.21	29.54	90.00	16.708	.283	1.237
2188.78	2299.81	5.07	28.71	90.00	16.703	.283	1.241
2179.03	2277.51	4.52	25.13	90.00	16.682	.286	1.254
2173.65	2266.16	4.26	23.32	90.00	16.671	.288	1.261
2156.54	2227.63	3.30	17.22	90.00	16.633	.293	1.286
2149.02	2210.83	2.88	14.58	90.00	16.616	.296	1.298
2138.05	2190.05	2.45	11.42	90.00	16.595	.299	1.310
2132.21	2173.98	1.96	8.86	90.00	16.578	.301	1.324
2123.73	2155.66	1.50	6.05	90.00	16.559	.304	1.336
2114.18	2134.37	.95	2.80	90.00	16.537	.307	1.352
2143.33	2239.98	4.51	34.57	100.00	16.533	.299	1.266
2130.73	2212.04	3.82	29.99	100.00	16.504	.303	1.284
2120.78	2191.23	3.32	26.61	100.00	16.482	.306	1.297
2111.08	2170.90	2.83	23.34	100.00	16.460	.309	1.310
2101.98	2151.91	2.38	20.31	100.00	16.439	.312	1.324
2092.18	2131.84	1.90	17.12	100.00	16.417	.316	1.337
2083.40	2113.72	1.46	14.27	100.00	16.397	.319	1.349
2075.42	2097.28	1.05	11.70	100.00	16.379	.321	1.361
2065.52	2077.08	.56	8.57	100.00	16.356	.325	1.375
2056.28	2058.59	.11	5.73	100.00	16.334	.328	1.390
2046.52	2040.08	-.31	2.91	100.00	16.313	.332	1.402
2082.37	2151.94	3.34	34.56	110.00	16.330	.320	1.305
2073.64	2134.77	2.95	31.73	110.00	16.310	.323	1.316
2064.95	2117.48	2.54	28.90	110.00	16.290	.326	1.327
2056.27	2100.33	2.14	26.12	110.00	16.270	.330	1.339
2053.58	2094.18	1.98	25.12	110.00	16.262	.331	1.344
2049.41	2086.45	1.81	23.88	110.00	16.253	.332	1.349
2038.65	2065.26	1.31	20.49	110.00	16.228	.336	1.363
2028.89	2046.46	.87	17.51	110.00	16.205	.340	1.377
2018.84	2027.12	.41	14.46	110.00	16.182	.344	1.390
2009.49	2009.27	-.01	11.68	110.00	16.160	.348	1.403
1999.34	1989.62	-.49	8.65	110.00	16.135	.352	1.418
1989.58	1971.14	-.93	5.82	110.00	16.112	.356	1.432
1979.93	1952.74	-1.37	3.03	110.00	16.089	.360	1.446
2022.84	2071.43	2.40	34.73	120.00	16.128	.344	1.338
2011.06	2048.79	1.88	31.00	120.00	16.099	.348	1.354
2003.04	2034.46	1.57	28.66	120.00	16.081	.351	1.363
1989.88	2011.17	1.07	24.90	120.00	16.051	.357	1.378
1975.15	1983.23	.41	20.44	120.00	16.015	.363	1.398
1964.44	1963.68	-.04	17.35	120.00	15.989	.368	1.413
1953.21	1943.44	-.50	14.19	120.00	15.963	.372	1.426
1944.42	1927.68	-.86	11.76	120.00	15.941	.376	1.439
1933.20	1907.48	-1.33	8.66	120.00	15.914	.381	1.454
1921.82	1885.74	-1.88	5.37	120.00	15.884	.387	1.472
1912.43	1870.40	-2.20	3.07	120.00	15.863	.391	1.483
1905.10	1924.60	1.02	34.90	140.00	15.724	.397	1.389
1895.45	1908.54	.69	32.29	140.00	15.701	.402	1.399
1882.90	1887.82	.26	28.94	140.00	15.671	.408	1.413
1873.05	1871.52	-.08	26.34	140.00	15.647	.413	1.424
1859.89	1849.90	-.54	22.93	140.00	15.615	.420	1.439
1850.14	1833.37	-.91	20.35	140.00	15.590	.425	1.451
1839.27	1816.03	-1.26	17.66	140.00	15.563	.431	1.464

TABLE II. *Experimental values of compressed liquid sound velocity, W_E , temperature T , and pressure, P . Sound velocity, W_c , and density, ρ , were computed from the PqT surface (ref. 7,8). Adiabatic compressibility, K , and specific heat ratio were computed from W_E and properties derived from the PqT surface.—Continued.*

W_E m/s	W_c m/s	Δ %	P MPa	T K	ρ mol/L	K , GPa ⁻¹	γ
1825.05	1793.00	-1.76	14.15	140.00	15.528	.438	1.480
1813.01	1773.54	-2.18	11.22	140.00	15.498	.445	1.495
1801.58	1754.90	-2.59	8.44	140.00	15.468	.452	1.510
1790.56	1737.34	-2.97	5.86	140.00	15.441	.458	1.523
1779.49	1719.92	-3.35	3.33	140.00	15.413	.465	1.537
1788.31	1790.01	.10	34.57	160.00	15.319	.463	1.422
1777.79	1773.82	-.22	31.99	160.00	15.292	.469	1.433
1764.69	1753.94	-.61	28.86	160.00	15.259	.477	1.446
1753.72	1737.38	-.93	26.28	160.00	15.232	.484	1.457
1739.54	1716.50	-1.32	23.07	160.00	15.196	.493	1.471
1726.90	1697.22	-1.72	20.15	160.00	15.163	.501	1.485
1715.11	1679.69	-2.07	17.53	160.00	15.133	.509	1.497
1700.99	1659.01	-2.47	14.48	160.00	15.097	.519	1.512
1673.66	1618.90	-3.27	8.70	160.00	15.025	.539	1.544
1645.12	1577.88	-4.09	2.97	160.00	14.951	.560	1.575
1674.66	1665.96	-.52	34.08	180.00	14.912	.542	1.443
1664.70	1652.11	-.76	31.94	180.00	14.887	.550	1.451
1651.34	1633.30	-1.09	29.07	180.00	14.852	.560	1.463
1638.39	1615.25	-1.41	26.36	180.00	14.818	.570	1.475
1623.96	1595.72	-1.74	23.46	180.00	14.781	.582	1.488
1608.47	1574.39	-2.12	20.35	180.00	14.740	.595	1.502
1593.23	1553.09	-2.52	17.30	180.00	14.699	.608	1.517
1579.41	1534.12	-2.87	14.62	180.00	14.662	.620	1.531
1562.04	1510.98	-3.27	11.42	180.00	14.616	.636	1.547
1546.24	1490.19	-3.63	8.60	180.00	14.574	.651	1.563
1531.56	1469.95	-4.02	5.90	180.00	14.533	.665	1.579
1514.50	1447.56	-4.42	2.98	180.00	14.487	.682	1.596
1568.77	1557.99	-.69	34.67	200.00	14.520	.635	1.446
1569.08	1556.74	-.79	34.48	200.00	14.518	.634	1.448
1554.50	1537.57	-1.09	31.63	200.00	14.478	.648	1.461
1542.61	1522.11	-1.33	29.36	200.00	14.447	.660	1.469
1524.37	1498.35	-1.71	25.94	200.00	14.397	.678	1.485
1513.91	1484.70	-1.93	24.00	200.00	14.368	.689	1.494
1493.44	1458.35	-2.35	20.33	200.00	14.312	.710	1.511
1475.66	1436.01	-2.69	17.29	200.00	14.264	.730	1.525
1458.18	1413.81	-3.04	14.33	200.00	14.216	.750	1.540
1440.66	1391.79	-3.93	11.45	200.00	14.167	.771	1.556
1420.44	1366.69	-3.78	8.26	200.00	14.111	.796	1.574
1400.22	1341.84	-4.17	5.18	200.00	14.055	.823	1.592
1380.82	1317.96	-4.55	2.29	200.00	14.000	.850	1.611
1468.01	1455.94	-.82	35.01	220.00	14.126	.745	1.445
1452.62	1437.01	-1.07	32.30	220.00	14.084	.763	1.455
1434.94	1415.24	-1.37	29.24	220.00	14.035	.785	1.467
1417.61	1394.05	-1.66	26.33	220.00	13.986	.807	1.480
1399.99	1372.70	-1.95	23.45	220.00	13.937	.830	1.492
1380.17	1348.72	-2.28	20.29	220.00	13.880	.858	1.508
1361.07	1325.71	-2.60	17.34	220.00	13.826	.885	1.522
1341.26	1302.34	-2.90	14.42	220.00	13.769	.916	1.537
1319.31	1276.56	-3.24	11.28	220.00	13.706	.951	1.554
1297.42	1251.03	-3.58	8.26	220.00	13.643	.987	1.572
1274.40	1224.42	-3.92	5.22	220.00	13.576	1.029	1.591
1252.92	1199.96	-4.23	2.50	220.00	13.514	1.069	1.608
1366.78	1356.03	-.79	34.75	240.00	13.722	.885	1.438
1354.79	1341.71	-.97	32.79	240.00	13.687	.903	1.445
1331.98	1314.77	-1.29	29.19	240.00	13.621	.938	1.460

TABLE II. Experimental values of compressed liquid sound velocity, W_E , temperature T , and pressure, P . Sound velocity, W_c , and density, ρ , were computed from the P - Q - T surface (ref. 7,8). Adiabatic compressibility, K_s , and specific heat ratio were computed from W_E and properties derived from the P - Q - T surface.—Continued.

W_E m/s	W_c m/s	Δ %	P MPa	T K	ρ mol/L	K_s GPa ⁻¹	γ
1315.98	1296.06	-1.51	26.74	240.00	13.574	.965	1.470
1295.35	1272.20	-1.79	23.70	240.00	13.513	1.000	1.484
1273.86	1247.34	-2.08	20.62	240.00	13.449	1.039	1.499
1255.72	1226.66	-2.31	18.13	240.00	13.395	1.074	1.511
1227.37	1194.90	-2.65	14.42	240.00	13.311	1.131	1.530
1205.33	1169.98	-2.93	11.61	240.00	13.244	1.179	1.546
1175.71	1137.32	-3.27	8.06	240.00	13.155	1.247	1.567
1149.59	1108.82	-3.55	5.10	240.00	13.075	1.312	1.587
1123.73	1081.19	-3.79	2.35	240.00	12.997	1.382	1.606
1273.83	1265.36	-.66	35.00	260.00	13.326	1.049	1.425
1254.47	1243.15	-.90	32.12	260.00	13.267	1.086	1.436
1235.06	1221.13	-1.13	29.34	260.00	13.207	1.126	1.448
1215.65	1199.46	-1.33	26.68	260.00	13.148	1.167	1.459
1212.25	1195.70	-1.37	26.22	260.00	13.137	1.175	1.462
1193.35	1174.68	-1.56	23.71	260.00	13.079	1.218	1.472
1166.47	1145.01	-1.84	20.29	260.00	12.995	1.283	1.489
1142.69	1118.92	-2.08	17.38	260.00	12.920	1.344	1.505
1120.08	1094.75	-2.26	14.79	260.00	12.850	1.407	1.518
1091.48	1063.69	-2.55	11.58	260.00	12.758	1.492	1.538
1034.53	1004.14	-2.94	5.84	260.00	12.576	1.685	1.576
1001.40	970.76	-3.06	2.87	260.00	12.472	1.813	1.595
1181.52	1174.36	-.61	34.56	280.00	12.911	1.258	1.416
1163.44	1154.56	-.76	32.14	280.00	12.853	1.303	1.425
1142.60	1131.55	-.97	29.40	280.00	12.786	1.359	1.436
1117.30	1104.02	-1.19	26.23	280.00	12.703	1.430	1.451
1095.25	1080.16	-1.38	23.57	280.00	12.631	1.497	1.463
1070.45	1053.86	-1.55	20.75	280.00	12.550	1.577	1.476
1042.41	1024.19	-1.75	17.70	280.00	12.456	1.675	1.493
1002.42	982.81	-1.96	13.67	280.00	12.323	1.831	1.516
977.47	957.07	-2.09	11.30	280.00	12.238	1.939	1.532
946.83	926.01	-2.20	8.58	280.00	12.134	2.085	1.551
909.95	889.29	-2.27	5.56	280.00	12.008	2.281	1.574
860.05	841.19	-2.19	1.92	280.00	11.839	2.590	1.603
1098.21	1093.27	-.45	34.75	300.00	12.506	1.503	1.401
1071.17	1063.71	-.70	31.35	300.00	12.412	1.592	1.417
1055.73	1047.03	-.82	29.49	300.00	12.358	1.646	1.425
1048.97	1040.11	-.84	28.73	300.00	12.336	1.671	1.428
1017.21	1006.15	-1.09	25.12	300.00	12.224	1.793	1.446
1010.40	999.13	-1.12	24.40	300.00	12.201	1.821	1.449
989.11	976.70	-1.25	22.14	300.00	12.125	1.912	1.461
976.05	963.07	-1.33	20.80	300.00	12.079	1.971	1.468
965.74	952.41	-1.38	19.78	300.00	12.042	2.019	1.474
944.24	930.41	-1.46	17.73	300.00	11.966	2.126	1.485
942.26	928.64	-1.45	17.57	300.00	11.959	2.136	1.487
908.52	894.37	-1.56	14.54	300.00	11.838	2.321	1.505
904.05	889.83	-1.57	14.15	300.00	11.821	2.347	1.509
876.16	861.82	-1.64	11.83	300.00	11.720	2.521	1.525
868.38	853.89	-1.67	11.20	300.00	11.690	2.572	1.531
847.35	833.36	-1.65	9.61	300.00	11.614	2.719	1.543
827.58	813.96	-1.65	8.17	300.00	11.541	2.869	1.555
792.52	780.58	-1.51	5.83	300.00	11.413	3.164	1.575
787.49	775.71	-1.50	5.50	300.00	11.394	3.209	1.579
748.57	739.26	-1.24	3.19	300.00	11.250	3.597	1.603

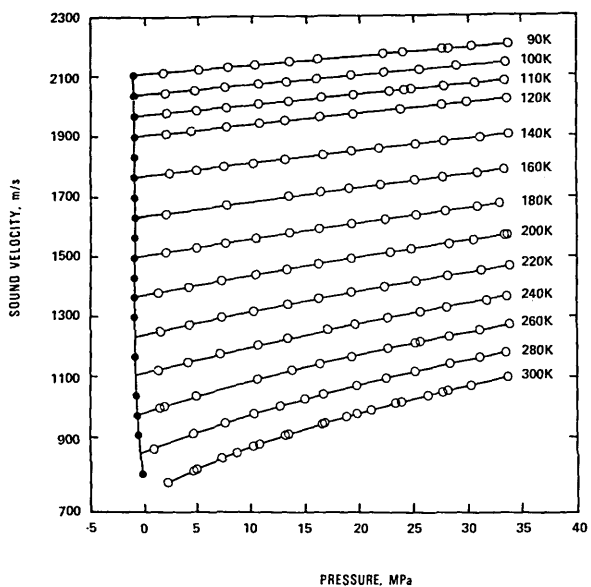


FIGURE 1. Sound velocity in compressed liquid propane as a function of pressure on isotherms. Closed circles are for saturated liquid.

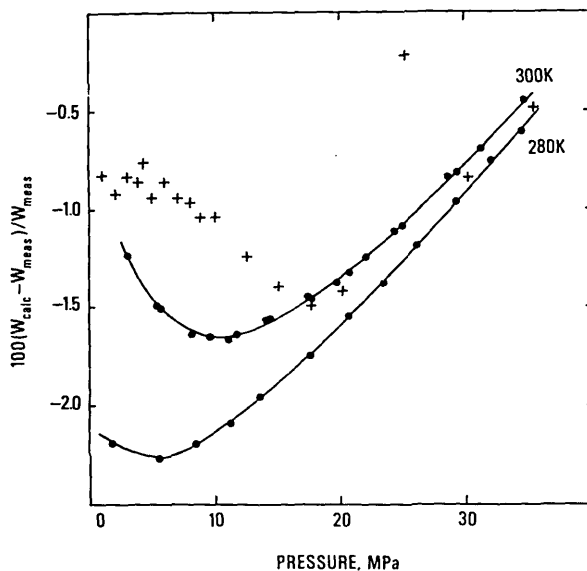


FIGURE 2. Deviation of Goodwin's calculated sound velocity relative to the data of Lacomme for $T = 298.15$ K (+). For comparison, the deviation of Goodwin's calculated values relative to the measured values of this report are shown for $T = 280$ K and 300 K (•).