Heat capacity of water: A signature of nuclear quantum effects

C. Vega,1,2) M. M. Conde,1 C. McBride,1 J. L. F. Abascal,1 E. G. Noya,2 R. Ramirez,3 and L. M. Sese4

1Departamento de Química Física, Facultad de Ciencias Químicas, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, 28040 Madrid, Spain
2Instituto de Química Física Rocasolano, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Calle Serrano 119, 28006 Madrid, Spain
3Instituto de Ciencia de Materiales, CSIC, Campus de Cantoblanco, 28049 Madrid, Spain
4Departamento de Ciencias y Técnicas Físicoquímicas, Facultad de Ciencias, UNED, Paseo Senda del Rey 9, 28040 Madrid, Spain

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Given the primordial role that water plays in life and our everyday lives, the development of high quality interaction potentials for this ubiquitous material is of great interest. Such models can be obtained “on the fly,” as in Carr–Parrinello simulations, or by fitting the results of high level \textit{ab initio} calculations for clusters to an analytical expression. Another route is to use an empirical potential whose parameters are fine tuned so as to reproduce experimental properties. Once the potential energy surface (PES) is known computer simulations can be performed using either classical or quantum statistical mechanics to describe the probability density distribution of the molecules on this PES. Evidence that nuclear quantum effects in water are important is steadily growing. If the PES is obtained from first principles calculations then, since one is obtaining the true PES (although in an approximate manner), it is clear that quantum statistical mechanics should be used to describe the motion of the nuclei. In the case of empirical potentials one can use either classical or quantum statistical mechanics, depending on whether the potential parameters were obtained to reproduce experimental properties of water within classical or quantum simulations, respectively. Recently we have proposed two empirical potentials: the TIP4P/2005 (Ref. 9) to be used in classical simulations and TIP4PQ/200510,11 to be used in path-integral (PI) simulations. Both of these models are rigid and nonpolarizable.

In this note we shall focus on the heat capacity $C_p$ at constant pressure along the $p=1$ bar isobar for the two aforementioned models. For the TIP4P/2005 model the values of $C_p$ obtained from classical simulations for ice $I_h$ and water have been reported previously. For TIP4PQ/2005 we shall calculate $C_p$ using the simulation results for the enthalpy taken from our recent work on the ice phases and water. These were obtained from PI simulations of water (ice) using 300 (432) molecules and isotropic (anisotropic) $NpT$ ensemble simulations. The Lennard-Jones part of the potential was truncated at 8.5 Å, adding long range corrections to both the energy and pressure, and using Ewald sums. The rigid-body rotational propagator was taken from the work of Müser and Berne. For the fluid phase we used $P=7$ replicas, and for ice $I_h$ the number of replicas was selected such that $PT \approx 1500$ K. The heat capacity is obtained as the first derivative of the enthalpy with respect to the temperature at constant pressure. The enthalpies of the fluid phase (for seven temperatures) have been fitted variously to either a second or third order polynomial. For ice $I_h$ the enthalpies (at $T=77$, 100, 125, 150, 200, 250, and 273 K) have been fitted to the expression $H = a + bT^2 + cT^3$. This expression satisfies the third law of thermodynamics and provides an excellent description of the experimental enthalpies of ice $I_h$ up to the melting temperature.

In Fig. 1 the experimental and TIP4PQ/2005 PI results for the heat capacity of ice $I_h$ and water are presented. By including nuclear quantum effects it is, for the first time, possible to describe the $C_p$ of ice $I_h$ and liquid water over a broad range of temperatures. On the other hand, results from classical simulations of TIP4P/2005 fail in describing $C_p$ for all temperatures considered in this work. Although the failure of the classical treatment at low $T$ was expected (such a treatment does not satisfy the third law so $C_p$ is not zero at

![FIG. 1. Heat capacity $C_p$ at $p=1$ bar for water and ice $I_h$ as obtained from PI simulations of TIP4PQ/2005 (solid line) and from classical simulations of TIP4P/2005 (dashed line). Experimental results (○); (water: Ref. 20, $I_h$: Ref. 15). Upper graph: fluid phase. Classical simulation results at room temperature for TIP4P-Ew (△), SPC/E (○), TIP4P (+), and TIP3P (＊) are also shown. Lower graph: results for ice $I_h$.](image-url)
From the point of view of further improvements it is likely that intramolecular degrees of freedom (i.e., flexibility) should be included in the model, since these provide a small, but probably significant, contribution to intermolecular interactions. However, for a flexible model of water large differences in $C_p$ between the classical and the quantum treatment are still expected; internal vibrational modes would contribute little to $C_p$ in a quantum treatment, whereas they would contribute 3\$ in a classical treatment. The value of 12.5 cal/mol (i.e., 6.5 + 3\$) is probably an upper bound for the difference in $C_p$ between a classical and a quantum treatment of a flexible model of water. This is due to the existence of competing quantum effects (i.e., a lower dipole moment of water in the classical treatment) as discussed recently by Habershon et al., which would most likely narrow the gap between quantum and classical results.

In this note we have shown that by including nuclear quantum effects it is possible to provide a good description of $C_p$ of water and ice I$_h$. The failure of all of the classical models to describe the heat capacity of water clearly shows that only a quantum treatment can quantitatively reproduce this property. The heat capacity is indeed one of the signatures of nuclear quantum effects in water.

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\*Electronic mail: cvega@quim.ucm.es.