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# PAPER



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# 1. Introduction

Technological advancements in the field of power generation cause an increment in the creation of heat during work processes. As a result, the need to reduce the generated heat becomes more essential.1 Nanofluids are one of the most promising cooling agent that transferring heat efficiently. These materials are suspensions of nanoparticles with the size of 1-100 nm, that possess specific characteristics such as high thermal conductivity that can make them potentially a suitable alternative to other coolers.<sup>2</sup> The creation of nanofluids necessitates the utilization of nanoparticles and a base fluid; these materials can be characterized by their unique properties and can offer potential applications in various fields such as heat transfer, lubrication, and advanced materials science.<sup>3</sup> One of the primary obstacles encountered in the utilization of nanofluids pertains to their inherent stability. The tendency of nanoparticles to agglomerate, driven by strong intermolecular

# Study of thermodynamic, transport and volumetric properties of nanofluids containing ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles in polypropylene glycol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone and water<sup>†</sup>

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Zirconium dioxide (ZrO<sub>2</sub>) nanofluids are used in cooling systems, solar energy, and heat exchangers, offering improved heat transfer and efficiency across a wide temperature range. The aim of this work was to study the influence of polypropylene glycol (PPG) and polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP) and aqueous solutions of them as a base fluid on stability, volumetric properties, and viscosity of nanofluids containing Zirconium oxide (ZrO<sub>2</sub>) nanoparticles. The stability of these nanofluids has been confirmed using UV-Vis spectroscopy, and the particle size distribution of the systems using dynamic light scattering (DLS). Among these systems  $ZrO_2$ -PPG and  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP30% have appropriate stability. The density, speed of sound and viscosity of these nanofluids have been measured at T = (293.15 to 318.15) K. From these data, the excess molar volume ( $V_m^E$ ) and isentropic compressibility ( $\kappa_s$ ) have been determined. The effects of ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles and temperature have also been investigated on volumetric and transport properties of aqueous solutions of PPG and PVP. The ( $V_m^E$ ) values were fitted to the Redlich–Kister, Ott *et al.*, and polynomial equations. Also, the isentropic compressibility ( $\kappa_s$ ) values were correlated with the polynomial equation. The Eyring-NRTL and Eyring-mNRF models have been used for correlating of the viscosity of the nanofluids with temperature dependency. The performance of the Einstein, Brinkman, Lundgren and Batchelor models in the prediction of viscosity of the nanofluids has also been analyzed.

forces, results in clotting and sedimentation within the channels through which nanofluids are passed. Consequently, their ability to effectively enhance thermal conductivity is hindered. As a result, increasing the stability of nanofluids can be considered a significant objective. Many researchers have applied various strategies to improve nanofluid stability; including the incorporation of surfactants, polymers, ultrasound, and mechanical agitation.<sup>4–6</sup> One of the cost effective methods to improve the stability of nanoparticles in a base fluid is utilization of polymers.<sup>7</sup>

Polymers on the other hand unlike the other applicants can be categorized as cost-effective, more accessible, that makes them a favorable and robust ingredient in the industry. One of the most important features of a polymer is that they can improve the stability of nanofluids. There are several methods to enhance the stability of nanofluids, the initial method involves the creation of an adsorbed layer, where polymers possess the ability to be adsorbed onto the surface of nanoparticles, consequently forming a protective layer. This protective layer, serves the crucial function of inhibiting direct contact between nanoparticles, thereby preventing their aggregation and accumulation within the fluid medium.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, another strategy involves the generation of steric repulsion,

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where certain polymers exhibit functional groups that become ionized and charged when immersed in water. These electrically charged functional groups induce repulsive forces between nanoparticles, thereby preventing their aggregation and subsequent accumulation.8 Moreover, polymer leads to an increase in fluid viscosity as the concentration of polymer escalates. The elevation in viscosity levels plays a pivotal role in diminishing the Brownian motion (random motion of particles immersed in fluid) exhibited by nanoparticles, consequently reducing the likelihood of their collision and subsequent aggregation within the nanofluid.9 Lastly, polymers have the ability to induce alterations in surface energy exhibited by both nanoparticles and the base fluid. This modification in surface energy profiles exerts an influence on the intermolecular operative forces between nanoparticles and the surrounding fluid medium, consequently impacting the aggregation tendencies within the nanofluid system.10

PVP is a polymer that is widely utilized across various fields due to its remarkably intriguing characteristics.11,12 Polypropylene glycol (PPG) is less toxic than polyethylene glycol (PEG) and frequently used in the pharmaceutical and cosmetic fields as solvent, carrier, humectants, lubricant, binder, base and coupling agent and also for extraction, separation, and purification of biological materials.<sup>13,14</sup> The utilization of (PPG) has been thoroughly examined in the presence of various fluid systems as a stabilizing agent.<sup>15,16</sup> Metal nanoparticles, metal oxides, carbides, nitrides or carbon nanotubes with various shapes are used in the preparation of nanofluids.<sup>17</sup> Among these materials, metal oxides as a nanostructure stand as a suitable candidate as they have been used in the manufacture of optical cells, electroluminescence, electrochromic windows, and chemical sensors.<sup>18</sup> ZrO<sub>2</sub> can be mentioned among these nanoparticles. ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles possess high mechanical properties such as high strength and flexibility, also these nanoparticles possess interesting characteristics such as heat insulation that has been widely utilized in the industrial fields.<sup>19</sup> Some research studies have been conducted on ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles. Gustaman and co-workers,<sup>20</sup> synthesized the ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles through the sol-gel method and investigated the possibility of using nanofluid containing ZrO<sub>2</sub> as a coolant in a nuclear reactor. They synthesized ZrO2 nanoparticles and studied the properties of nanofluid containing ZrO2 nanoparticles dispersed in water base fluid at different pH. The results show that the thermal conductivity of the studied nanofluid is about 4-9% higher than the base fluid. Recent studies have shown that nanofluids containing metal oxide nanoparticles dispersed in water as a fluid can increase thermal conductivity by 30-40%.<sup>21</sup> Moghtaderi and colleagues,<sup>22</sup> investigated the effect of anionic surfactants (Sodium dodecyl benzene sulfonate) on the stability and thermodynamic properties of metal oxide nanofluids containing Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and CuO nanoparticles.<sup>22</sup> ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles show significant physical properties, despite the excellent heat transfer properties of metal oxide nanoparticles, there are still issues to be investigated about nanofluids.23-26 One of the basic issues in this field is the agglomeration of oxide nanoparticles in aqueous solutions, which is due to high hydrophilicity and strong Van der

Waals forces.<sup>27,28</sup> Despite extensive measurements, the very important and practical property of nanofluids is thermal conductivity. The studies and models that have been investigated to fit thermodynamic quantities and viscosity of polymer solutions and nanofluids are often for a concentrated region, and fewer studies have been conducted in the field of thermodynamics of nanofluids in the dilute region.<sup>29–31</sup>

In this research, nanofluid systems including ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles in water, PPG and aqueous PVP as base fluids have been investigated and the thermodynamic performance and interactions in these systems have been investigated. UV-Vis spectroscopy was adopted to observe the stability of nanofluid with the passage of time. The density, speed of sound and viscosity of nanofluids including ZrO2 nanoparticles dispersed in PPG, H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP and H<sub>2</sub>O have been measured up to semidilute concentration range at T = (293.15, 298.15, 308.15,318.15) K. For elucidating the interactions occurring in biphasic heterogeneous colloids, the excess molar volume  $(V_m^{\rm E})$  and isentropic compressibility ( $\kappa_s$ ) which are convenient for this aim determined.<sup>32</sup> The V<sub>m</sub><sup>E</sup> values were correlated with the Redlich-Kister,<sup>33</sup> Ott *et al.*<sup>34</sup> and polynomial equations. The  $\kappa_s$  values were fitted with the polynomial equation. The Eyring-NRTL<sup>35</sup> and Eyring-mNRF36 models have successfully been used to correlate the viscosity reported data. Additionally, the Einstein, Brinkman, Lundgren, and Batchelor models was employed to predict the viscosity data.

## 2. Experimentation

#### 2.1. Chemicals

The utilized chemicals in this work were ZrO<sub>2</sub>, PPG and PVP. The specification about the utilized chemicals are as follows:

The ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles with an average diameter of 20 nm was purchased from Nanostructured & Amorphous Materials Inc., USA, polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) and polypropylene glycol (PPG) from Merck. The related approximate molar mass for ZrO<sub>2</sub> was 123.218 g mol<sup>-1</sup>, for PPG was 400 and for PVP was 50 000. The utilized materials purity were >99% according to the supplier. Also, the related CAS. no. for ZrO<sub>2</sub> was 1314-23-4, 9003-39-8 for PVP and 25322-69-4 for PPG. The utilized water in this study for preparation of the nanofluids was double distilled deionized with conductance about 1  $\mu$ S cm<sup>-1</sup>.

#### 2.2. Preparation of the nanofluids

Zirconium oxide (ZrO<sub>2</sub>) nanoparticles were dispersed in various base fluids, including polypropylene glycol (PPG), water, and binary mixtures of water–PPG and water–polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) with different mass fractions of polymers. The mole fractions of the base fluids has been provided in Tables S1 and S2.† To prepare these mixtures, an analytical balance (AND, GR-202, Japan) with a precision of  $\pm 1 \times 10^{-4}$  g was employed. The resulting mixtures were subjected to ultrasonic treatment for one hour using an ultrasonic bath (Grant, England) followed by 30 minutes of exposure to an ultrasonic probe device (UP400S, 400 watts, 24 kHz).

#### 2.3. Instruments and process

The whole measurements are illustrated in Fig. 1 to show the flow of the work to assess the stability of the nanofluids. The details of the measurements are described in the continuation.

2.3.1. UV-Vis and dynamic light scattering studies (DLS). The UV-Vis spectra were measured with a spectrophotometer and (Analytic Jena, SPECORD-250, Germany) in the wavelength range from 200 to 600 nm. Particle size distribution and zeta potential are measured by a DLS device (DLS, Nanotrac wave model) for the studied system in terms of stability to obtain the nanoparticle size inside the nanofluid systems.

2.3.2. Density and speed of sound measurements. Density and speed of sound for the stable nanofluid system are measured at T = (293.15 to 318.15) K by a densimeter (Anton Paar, DSA 5000, Austria). This densimeter measures the density and speed of sound with a precision of  $3 \times 10^{-6}$  g cm<sup>-3</sup> and  $0.1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . The instrument was automatically thermostabilized within  $\pm 0.001$  K (with a built-in Peltier temperature controller).

2.3.3. Viscosity. The viscosity of the stable nanofluid was measured by capillary viscometer, the dangling Ubbelohde-type viscometer (Julabo, MD-18V, Germany). In these viscometers, the temperature was controlled with an accuracy of 0.01 K. The passage of the time for nanofluid through the capillary tube was measured by a stopwatch. The precision of the used stopwatch was 0.01 s.

$$\eta = K \cdot d \cdot t - \frac{N \cdot d}{t^2} \tag{1}$$

$$\eta = K \cdot d \cdot (t - \theta) \tag{2}$$

In these equations: t sample passage time through the capillary tube, N and K are viscometer constants, d is nanofluid

density and  $\theta$  is correction factor. In these research work  $\theta$ was 1.

#### 3. Result and discussion

#### Stability studies 3.1.

The stability of nanofluids was investigated by UV-Vis spectroscopy. First, the nanoparticles of ZrO<sub>2</sub> have been dispersed in PPG, water and aqueous solutions of PPG-H<sub>2</sub>O, PVP-H<sub>2</sub>O as base fluids. The prepared nanofluids were stirred for one hour by a magnetic stirrer, then they were respectively placed in an ultrasonic bath for 24 h, and after 24 h in an ultrasonic bath with a probe for 30 min. UV-Vis absorption spectroscopy for ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG, ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O and different ratios of ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG-H<sub>2</sub>O nanofluids at ZrO<sub>2</sub> mole fraction of 0.00038 are shown in Fig. 2.

The UV-Vis analysis demonstrates the maximum absorption wavelength of ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG is 306 nm, ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG-H<sub>2</sub>O (4:1) is 333 nm,  $ZrO_2$ -PPG-H<sub>2</sub>O (3:1) is 309 nm and  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O have two sharp peaks in the region of 201 and 295 nm. Therefore, to check the stability of the prepared nanofluids, after sonication, their UV-Vis spectra were recorded over the time.37 These spectra over the time for ZrO2-PPG, ZrO2-H2O and different ratios of ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG-H<sub>2</sub>O nanofluids are shown in Fig. 3. As depicted in Fig. 3, the ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG system has a stability about one month, and with the time elaps, the nanoparticles were sedimented.

The ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG system is stable for about one month and as the times elapses, the nanoparticles begin to precipitate from the solution. The ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O system is stable for 24 h and after 24 h the intensity of absorption decreases and the sample is unstable due to the formation of clusters of ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles. It can be seen in Fig. 3(c) and (d) that by adding water to the ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG mixture, the samples face a sharp decrease in absorption and are

Fig. 1 The measurements diagram including preparation of mixtures and sonication (a), UV-Vis spectrophotometry (b), dynamic light scattering (c), density and speed of sound measurements (d), and viscosity measurement (e).

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Fig. 2 UV-Vis absorption spectrum of nanofluids after ultrasonic bath (a)  $ZrO_2-PPG$ , (b)  $ZrO_2-H_2O$ , (c)  $ZrO_2-PPG-H_2O$  with ratio (4 : 1) and (d)  $ZrO_2-PPG-H_2O$  with ratio (3 : 1) of PPG-H\_2O base fluid in molar fraction of  $ZrO_2$  equal to 0.00038.

completely unstable, it can be concluded that the interactions between water molecules and PPG are more than the interaction between PPG and  $ZrO_2$  nanoparticles, and as a result, the percentage of water compared to PPG increases, the maximum absorption decreases and  $ZrO_2$  nanoparticles are deposited.<sup>38-40</sup> Among the investigated systems, the  $ZrO_2$ -PPG nanofluid exhibited satisfactory stability, as evidenced by both its intrinsic properties and thermodynamic analysis. Consequently, further thermodynamic studies can be conducted on this specific nanofluid. Fig. 4 presents the absorption-time profiles for the  $ZrO_2$ -PPG and  $ZrO_2$ -PPG-H<sub>2</sub>O nanofluids.<sup>38-40</sup>

According to the results reported in the studies by Zafarani and his colleagues, the research conducted on the ZnO–PPG nanofluid system, the studied nanofluid has stability for 7 days and then with the time elaps nanoparticles start to sediment.<sup>41</sup> These results indicates that the ability of PPG in spreading ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles can be justified by the fact that with the presence of an additional oxygen in ZrO<sub>2</sub>, more hydrogen bonds are formed with polymer molecules and the stability of the system increases. In this research, due to the instability of the ZrO<sub>2</sub>– PPG–H<sub>2</sub>O system, we must look for factors that increase the stability of these nanoparticles without having side effects. For this reason, PVP was used as a stabilizing agent and surfactant. In this research, in order to achieve a suitable system in terms of stability, different proportions of PVP–H<sub>2</sub>O were prepared and  $ZrO_2$  nanoparticles were dispersed in them. The prepared nanofluids were placed in an ultrasonic bath for 24 h and their stability over time was checked by UV-Vis and the results are shown in Fig. 5.

It is evident from Fig. 5, the absorption peak in the presence of PVP has become sharper and the maximum absorption has increased towards longer wavelengths, which indicates the larger particles, which can be attributed to the effect of PVP as a surfactant. The properties of the solvent in spectroscopy have an effect on the absorbed wavelength of the material. Therefore, the choice of solvent is important, it may be that hydrogen bonds produced by polar solvents with the ground state of polar molecules are easier than creating bonds with their excited states, as a result, the energy of electron transfers in these molecules will increase and the transfers will be towards the shorter wavelength. On the other hand, in some cases, the excited states may form stronger hydrogen bonds than the ground state, thus shifting the absorption to longer wavelengths because the electron energy decreases. By comparing the UV-Vis of ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O with ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PVP- $H_2O_1$ , it can be concluded that the systems become more stable in the presence of PVP. The interaction of PVP with ZrO2 in the ZrO2- $H_2O$  system causes the stabilization of the excited state, in the 1:3 ratio of PVP : H<sub>2</sub>O, the stability is higher than the other ratios. PVP is a polymer with long chains and hollow spaces, nanoparticles can enter these empty spaces due to their small size, and water

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**Fig. 3** UV-Vis absorption spectrum of (a)  $ZrO_2 - PPG$ , (b)  $ZrO_2 - H_2O$ , (c)  $ZrO_2 - PPG - H_2O$  with ratio (4 : 1) and (d)  $ZrO_2 - PPG - H_2O$  with ratio (3 : 1) of PPG - H<sub>2</sub>O base fluid in molar fraction of  $ZrO_2$  equal to 0.00038.



Fig. 4 UV-Vis absorption spectrum in terms of time for nanofluid  $ZrO_2$ -PPG (-),  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O (...),  $ZrO_2$ -PPG-H<sub>2</sub>O (4 : 1) (--),  $ZrO_2$ -PPG-H<sub>2</sub>O (3 : 1) (-.-.) in the molar fraction of  $ZrO_2$  equal to 0.00038.

molecules can create strong hydrogen bonds with the polymer, and because of these strong bonds in this system, nanoparticles are more stable. The analysis of the resulting spectra in Fig. 5 shows that by increasing the viscosity of the base fluid in the consequence of addition of polymer, the dispersion of nanoparticles improves. The UV-Vis of different ratios of  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP indicates that area under the curve in the proportions of 2%, 5%, 10% and 20% of PVP is stable for about 3 days and then decreases with the time elaps which shows the sedimentation of nanoparticles. The area under the peak decreases slowly with the increase in the amount of PVP. In the recorded UV-Vis spectrum with a ratio of 30% PVP, there is no noticeable change in the system for 5 days, and after this period of time, the amount of reduction in the area under the peak (the amount of deposition of nanoparticles) is very slow. According to these observations, the  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP system with a ratio of 30% PVP is more stable than other systems and can be introduced as an ideal fluid for  $ZrO_2$  nanoparticles.

#### 3.2. Particle size distribution and zeta potential

After checking the stability of the studied nanofluid systems, the particle size distribution for the stable nanofluid system containing  $ZrO_2$  nanoparticles dispersed in PPG has been

8



Fig. 5 UV-Vis absorption spectrum of ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP nanofluids with different ratios of PVP in ZrO<sub>2</sub> mole fraction equal to 0.00038.

measured by DLS. The average particle size was 163.7 nm, according to the obtained results, the average size of the nanoparticles in the fluid were larger than the initial size of the nanoparticles. In Yu and collogues studies, increasing in the size of nanoparticles was attributed to the aggregation of nanoparticles.<sup>42</sup> The large size of  $ZrO_2$  nanoparticles in the fluid can be caused by the presence of long polymer chains and the particles being surrounded by polymer chains. Of course, the particles can be placed in the spaces created by the polymer, which is called the polymer compaction effect, and even this phenomenon can be considered as an effective factor in the stability of nanofluids. In a study conducted on the  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O system, it was observed that the size of the nanoparticles in the

nanofluid is about 200 nm, which is more than the initial size of the nanoparticles, which was 60 nm,<sup>43</sup> the large size of nanoparticles in water is related to the clumping of ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles in water.

The zeta potential for the stable nanofluid containing  $ZrO_2$  nanoparticles dispersed in PPG was measured and the value of +68 mV was obtained. In the study conducted on the  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O system, zeta potential for this nanofluid was +45 in acidic conditions and -41 in alkaline conditions.<sup>44</sup> The results reported for the zeta potential of the system, according to the studies conducted and the results obtained in the literature, systems with a zeta potential greater than +30 and less than -30 have stability.<sup>45</sup> Therefore, according to the size of the zeta

potential, it can be concluded that PPG is a suitable fluid for spreading ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles. These observations confirms the results of UV-Vis spectroscopy.

#### 3.3. Density and speed of sound

In this research,  $ZrO_2$  nanoparticles were dispersed in PPG,  $H_2O$ , PPG– $H_2O$  and PVP– $H_2O$  base fluids by applying ultrasonic waves. The experimental density, speed of sound and viscosity data for  $ZrO_2$  in PPG, aqueous solution of PVP and  $ZrO_2$  in water are collected in Table 1.

According to the results of UV-Vis spectroscopy, due to the instability of nanofluids containing  $\text{ZrO}_2$  nanoparticles dispersed in PPG-H<sub>2</sub>O base fluids, thermodynamic studies only on PPG and PVP-H<sub>2</sub>O fluids were done. To compare the studied systems, density and speed of sound were measured for the H<sub>2</sub>O-ZrO<sub>2</sub> system. In order to understand the interactions inside the nanofluid, the excess molar volume ( $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$ ) and isentropic compressibility ( $\kappa_{\rm s}$ ) were calculated using the experimental data of density and sound speed through the following equations:<sup>46,47</sup>

$$V_{\rm m}^{\rm E} = \sum_{I=1}^{n} x_1 M_1 \left[ \frac{1}{d} - \frac{1}{d_1} \right]$$
(3)

$$\kappa_{\rm s} = \frac{1}{du^2} \tag{4}$$

where *x* is the mole fraction, *M* is the molar mass, subscripts 1, 2 and 3 stand for ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles, polymer and water, respectively, while, density of the ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles the value of 5.98 kg m<sup>-3</sup> was taken from the literature.<sup>48</sup> Since the concentration of the investigated mixtures is dilute, the  $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$  calculated at different temperatures are not very sensitive to this value. Accordingly, the value of 5.98 kg m<sup>-3</sup> at the four investigated temperatures was used. The calculated values of  $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$  and  $\kappa_{\rm s}$  are also reported in Table 1. It can be seen that, in all cases, the density decreased with increasing temperature, whereas the loading of nanoparticles implied higher density values, as expected.

The temperature dependency of  $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$  and  $\kappa_{\rm s}$  for ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG, ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP and ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O systems are shown in Fig. 6. Density, viscosity and speed of sound for ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG and ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP nanofluid systems have been measured at different temperatures by capillary viscometer and densimeter device, the results are reported in Table 1.

As is evident from Table 1 and Fig. 6,  $V_m^E$  values are negative for  $ZrO_2$ -PPG within the dilute concentration range and become more negative with increasing concentration. The effect of temperature on the  $V_m^E$  of  $ZrO_2$ -PPG is not noticeable, however, with increasing temperature, the value of  $(V_m^E)$  becomes less negative. In the mixtures, negative  $V_m^E$  values can be due to the unlike interactions and also the placement of small molecules in spaces between polymer chains (compression effect). The positive values of  $V_m^E$  are characteristic of Van der Waals interactions between molecules. In the ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG nanofluid system, there are different interactions between unlike molecules (polymer molecules and nanoparticles), and Van der Waals interactions between (polymer–polymer) and (nanoparticle– nanoparticle), while the similar interactions of nanoparticles together cause the agglomeration phenomenon. In the  $ZrO_2$ – PPG system,  $V_m^E$  is negative generally, so it can be concluded that the unlike interactions are dominant and also nanoparticles accommodation in the voids provided by the polymer.

According to Table 1 and Fig. 6(c) it can be seen that the  $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$  for the ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP is negative and becomes more negative in dilute areas and becomes positive with increasing the concentration of nanoparticles, which shows that there are interactions between nanoparticles and base fluid in the dilute regions, and with increasing in the concentration of nanoparticles, the amount of Van der Waals forces increases and the nanoparticles become agglomeration in the base fluid. The performance of the molar volume is related to the interactions between the hydrogen atoms of the H<sub>2</sub>O and the oxygen atoms of PVP, which has a nitrogen molecule in its structure and has the ability to form a strong hydrogen bond with H<sub>2</sub>O. It can also be seen that with the increasing in the temperature, the  $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$  value becomes more negative, which can be related to the effect of polymer compression, which breaks the long polymer chains and collapses its molecular structure with the increase in temperature. Nanoparticles come out of the compressed state and the interaction of nanoparticles with each other breaks down and they interact more with H2O and PVP.49-51

It is also evident from Table 1 and Fig. 6(e) that  $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$  is negative for ZrO2-H2O nanofluid system and increases and becomes positive with increasing the concentration of nanoparticles; it can be concluded that in the ZrO2-H2O nanofluid system, small H<sub>2</sub>O molecules create hydrogen bonds with each other and trap nanoparticles in the holes in the solution, but due to the high molecular mass of ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles, the hydrogen bonds between H<sub>2</sub>O molecules is loosened and causes instability. By comparing the ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O and ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP systems, it can be indicated that  $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$  in the  $\rm ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O system is negative and increases with the increase in the concentration of nanoparticles, while in the ZrO2-H2O-PVP system, it is negative and becomes more negative with increasing concentration in dilute regions and increases again with increasing nanoparticle concentration. In both systems,  $V_m^E$  becomes less negative with increasing the temperature. The effect of temperature in the ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O system is more noticeable than in the ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP system, and with increasing temperature, the amount of  $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$  decreases, which indicates that the number of weakened hydrogen bonds is more in the ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O system from ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP system.<sup>52-56</sup>

According to Table 1 and Fig. 6(d), the  $\kappa_s$  value for ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP system is positive in all concentrations and increases with increasing the concentration of nanoparticles and is almost constant in compact points. It decreases with increasing the temperature as it is evident from Table 1 and Fig. 6(f) that the  $\kappa_s$ for the ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O system increases with the increase in the concentration of nanoparticles and has almost a constant value in all areas and decreases with the increase in the temperature. In all studied nanofluids and at all temperatures, the isentropic compressibility has positive values, which indicates the existence of a regular molecular structure due to the presence of **Table 1** Density (*d*), excess molar volume ( $V_m^E$ ), viscosity ( $\eta$ ), speed of sound (*u*), isentropic compressibility ( $\kappa_s$ ), for nanofluid of ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles dispersed in PPG, PVP-H<sub>2</sub>O, and H<sub>2</sub>O at different temperatures<sup>*a*</sup>

$100 \times x_1^{\ b}$	$100  imes {arphi_1}^c$	$10^{-3} \times d (\mathrm{kg} \mathrm{m}^{-3})$	$u ({ m m \ s}^{-1})$	$\eta$ (mPa s)	$10^6  imes V_{ m m}^{ m E} \left( { m m}^3 \ { m mol}^{-1}  ight)$	$10^{12}  imes \kappa_{ m s} \left( { m T Pa}^{-1}  ight)$
<b>ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanopart</b> T = 293.15 K	ticles dispersed in	n PPG				
0.2520	0.013	1.014337	1402.12	100.225	-0.038	501.473
0.5350	0.028	1.015157	1395.81	100.979	-0.068	505.608
0.9120	0.048	1.016418	1388.15	101.518	-0.172	510.569
1.2190	0.064	1.017508	1383.12	102.222	-0.278	513.739
1.6390	0.087	1.018998	1378.44	102.569	-0.417	516.477
3.5620	0.193	1.026107	1363.25	106.313	-1.100	524.392
5.7000	0.315	1.033569	1355.69	107.531	-1.574	526.429
T = 298.15  K						
0.2520	0.013	1.010667	1386.51	71.994	-0.183	514.690
0.5350	0.028	1.011509	1380.56	72.517	-0.222	518.704
0.9820	0.052	1.012819	1374.55	72.990	-0.347	522.573
1.2190	0.064	1.013891	1371.75	73.426	-0.447	524.154
1.6390	0.087	1.015499	1368.44	75.561	-0.633	525.859
3.5620	0.192	1.022647	1355.21	77.342	-1.336	532.428
5.7000	0.314	1.030289	1349.55	78.989	-1.879	532.921
T = 308.15  K						
0.2520	0.013	1.002978	1352.19	39.862	-0.496	545.297
0.5350	0.028	1.003792	1347.12	41.072	-0.526	548.964
0.9820	0.051	1.005127	1342.59	41.280	-0.664	551.940
1.2190	0.064	1.006219	1339.56	41.387	-0.774	553.839
1.6390	0.086	1.007790	1336.29	41.501	-0.950	555.685
3.5620	0.190	1.015008	1326.34	43.802	-1.696	560.042
5.7000	0.311	1.022781	1321.95	44.521	-2.301	559.484
T = 318.15  K						
0.2520	0.013	0.996634	1318.48	24.623	-1.071	577.188
0.5350	0.028	0.997400	1314.80	25.272	-1.082	579.978
0.9820	0.051	0.998628	1310.39	25.398	-1.178	583.170
1.2190	0.063	0.999735	1307.59	25.538	-1.296	585.022
1.6390	0.085	1.001199	1304.88	25.775	-1.432	586.595
3.5620	0.189	1.008329	1298.21	27.065	-2.156	588.448
5.7000	0.309	1.015912	1291.16	27.964	-2.700	590.451
ZrO <sub>2</sub> nanopart	ticles dispersed in	n PVP–H <sub>2</sub> O (30% w/w)				
T = 293.15  K						
0.0031	0.003	1.062929	1639.58	60.502	-0.003	349.970
0.0071	0.006	1.063105	1638.85	61.162	-0.003	350.224
0.0100	0.009	1.063269	1638.44	61.322	-0.003	350.345
0.0130	0.011	1.063376	1638.25	61.621	-0.003	350.391
0.0180	0.015	1.063566	1637.98	61.745	-0.002	350.444
0.0260	0.022	1.063790	1637.65	62.069	0.000	350.511
0.0330	0.028	1.063999	1637.43	62.261	0.002	350.537
I = 298.15  K	0.002	1 0 1 2 1 4	1642.04	40.410	0.004	240.042
0.0031	0.003	1.061314	1643.24	49.419	-0.004	348.943
0.00/1	0.006	1.061497	1642.69	49.701	-0.004	349.116
0.0100	0.009	1.061663	1642.47	49.793	-0.004	349.155
0.0130	0.011	1.061/80	1642.32	50.034	-0.004	349.180
0.0180	0.015	1.0619/9	1642.05	50.326	-0.004	349.230
0.0260	0.022	1.062225	1641.89	51.251	-0.002	349.21/
0.0330	0.028	1.002430	1041./4	51./89	0.000	349.211
I = 308.15  K	0.002	1.057120	1640 52	22 066	0.005	247 661
0.0031	0.003	1.03/130	1649.52	33.900	-0.005	347.001
0.00/1	0.000	1.03/310	1048.83	34.300	-0.005	347.891
0.0100	0.009	1.05/4/9	1648.55	34.830	-0.005	347.956
0.0130	0.011	1.05/591	1648.47	35.312	-0.005	347.953
0.0180	0.015	1.05//96	1648.28	35.450	-0.005	347.965
0.0260	0.022	1.058056	1647.91	35.619	-0.003	348.036
0.0330 T = 318.15 K	0.028	1.058285	164/./5	35./68	-0.002	348.028
0.0031	0.003	1.052388	1655.65	25.836	-0.006	346.647
0.0071	0.006	1.052571	1655.25	25.943	-0.006	346.754
						· · · · · · ·

$100 \times x_1^{\ b}$	$100  imes {arphi_1}^c$	$10^{-3}  imes d ({ m kg} { m m}^{-3})$	u (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	$\eta \ (mPa \ s)$	$10^6  imes V_{ m m}^{ m E} \left({ m m}^3 \ { m mol}^{-1} ight)$	$10^{12}  imes \kappa_{ m s}  ({ m T \ Pa^{-1}})$
0.0100	0.009	1.052729	1654.90	26.106	-0.006	346.849
0.0130	0.011	1.052845	1654.73	26.267	-0.006	346.882
0.0180	0.015	1.053051	1654.48	26.422	-0.006	346.919
0.0260	0.022	1.053321	1654.16	26.541	-0.005	346.964
0.0330	0.028	1.053559	1653.88	26.677	-0.003	347.003
$100 \times x_1^{b}$	$100  imes {arphi_1}^c$	$10^{-3}  imes d$ (kg m <sup>-3</sup>	3)	$u (m s^{-1})$	$10^6 \times V_{\mathrm{m}}^{\mathrm{E}} \left(\mathrm{m}^3 \ \mathrm{mol}^{-1}\right)$	$10^{12}  imes \kappa_{ m s}  ({ m T Pa}^{-1})$
ZrO <sub>2</sub> nanopart	icles dispersed in 1	H <sub>2</sub> O				
T = 293.15  K						
0.1700	0.194	0.998418		1482.95	-0.002	455.444
0.2920	0.333	0.998443		1482.90	-0.001	455.463
0.3650	0.417	0.998464		1482.78	-0.001	455.527
0.5110	0.583	0.998505		1482.79	0.000	455.502
0.6080	0.694	0.998534		1482.59	0.000	455.612
0.7290	0.832	0.998572		1482.89	0.001	455.410
T = 298.15  K						
0.1700	0.194	0.997386		1496.98	-0.004	447.409
0.2920	0.333	0.997394		1497.08	-0.003	447.346
0.3650	0.417	0.997405		1496.92	-0.003	447.436
0.5110	0.583	0.997431		1496.87	-0.002	447.455
0.6080	0.694	0.997455		1496.70	-0.001	447.545
0.7290	0.832	0.997489		1496.91	-0.001	447.405
T = 308.15  K						
0.1700	0.194	0.994495		1519.73	-0.007	435.376
0.2920	0.333	0.994490		1519.75	-0.005	435.367
0.3650	0.417	0.994494		1519.65	-0.005	435.422
0.5110	0.583	0.994499		1519.59	-0.003	435.455
0.6080	0.694	0.994519		1519.41	-0.003	435.549
0.7290	0.832	0.994558		1519.73	-0.002	435.348
T = 318.15  K						
0.1700	0.194	0.990520		1536.19	-0.014	427.806
0.2920	0.333	0.990525		1536.33	-0.013	427.726
0.3650	0.417	0.990529		1536.12	-0.012	427.841
0.5110	0.583	0.990534		1535.98	-0.011	427.917
0.6080	0.694	0.990539		1535.85	-0.010	427.987
0 7000	0.922	0.000555		1526.00	0.000	407.000

<sup>*a*</sup> The standard uncertainties for molality, temperature and pressure were  $u(m) = 0.001 \mod \log^{-1}$ , u(T) = 0.2 K, u(P) = 10.5 h Pa, respectively with level of confidence 0.95. The standard combined uncertainty for viscosity was about,  $u_c(\eta) = 0.02$  mPa s, for density were about,  $u_c(d) = 0.06 \times 10^{-3}$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>, and for speed of sound were about,  $u_c(u) = 1.5$  m s<sup>-1</sup> (level of confidence 0.68). <sup>*b*</sup>  $x_1$ : mole fraction of ZrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticle.

strong hydrogen bonds. At high temperatures, hydrogen bonds are weakened and the coherent molecular structure collapses. The isentropic compressibility performance of the studied nanofluids can be shown as follows:

$$\kappa_{s}(\text{ZrO}_{2}-\text{PPG}) > \kappa_{s}(\text{ZrO}_{2}-\text{H}_{2}\text{O}) > \kappa_{s}(\text{ZrO}_{2}-\text{H}_{2}\text{O}-\text{PVP30\%})$$

The studies conducted on excess molar volume  $(V_m^E)$  and isentropic compressibility  $(\kappa_s)$  and the obtained results confirm the results of UV-vis spectroscopy.

#### 3.4. Viscosity results

In order to ensure the accuracy of the data obtained from the capillary viscometer, the viscosity of  $ZrO_2$ -PPG and  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP nanofluids was also measured over the time and the

changes of  $\eta/\eta_{\text{basefluid}}$  for these nanofluids are shown according to time in Fig. 7.

Fig. 7 shows the repeatability of viscosity data in terms of time, which is a confirmation of the suitability of capillary viscometers for these measurements. According to the Table 1, the viscosity of  $ZrO_2$ -PPG and  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP nanofluids increased with increasing the concentration of nanoparticles and decreased with increasing temperature. It should be noted that, for both mentioned systems, the effect of temperature on the viscosity of nanofluids is more significant than the effect of increasing concentration. In the results reported in a study conducted on the viscosity of the  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O system, it has been observed that the viscosity of the mentioned nanofluid is affected by the concentration of nanoparticles and negligible change in viscosity is seen with the temperature change.

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**Fig. 6** Excess molar volume (a) and (b) isentropic compressibility in terms of nanoparticle mole fraction for  $ZrO_2$ -PPG system at  $T = ((\blacksquare) 293.15$ , ( $\bullet$ ) 298.15, ( $\bullet$ ) 308.15, ( $\bullet$ ) 318.15) K in comparison with (-) polynomial equation; excess molar volume (c) and (d) isentropic compressibility in terms of nanoparticle mole fraction for  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP system at  $T = ((\blacksquare) 293.15$ , ( $\bullet$ ) 308.15, ( $\bullet$ ) 318.15) K compared to (-) polynomial equation; experimental data of (e) excess molar volume and (f) isentropic compressibility in terms of nanoparticle mole fraction for  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O system at  $T = ((\blacksquare) 293.15$ , ( $\bullet$ ) 308.15, ( $\bullet$ ) 318.15) K compared to (-) polynomial equation; experimental data of (e) excess molar volume and (f) isentropic compressibility in terms of nanoparticle mole fraction for  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O system at  $T = ((\blacksquare) 293.15$ , ( $\bullet$ ) 308.15, ( $\bullet$ ) 318.15) K.

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Fig. 7 Experimental viscosity ratio  $\eta/\eta_{\text{basefluid}}$  plotted against time (t min<sup>-1</sup>) for of ZrO<sub>2</sub> in PPG and H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP.

# 4. Correlation

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The  $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$  values of nanofluid systems were correlated by Redlich– Kister, Ott<sup>57</sup> and polynomial equation at each temperature. These equations listed respectively in eqn (5)–(7). In the polynomial eqn (7),  $A_h$  is the polynomial coefficient and h + 1 is the number of polynomial coefficients. In this research, the  $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$  values are fitted by the mentioned equations by two methods. Each of the equations are given a temperature dependence by writing each of the parameters as  $A_0 + \frac{A_1}{m}$ , and two methods are tried in fitting the data. In the first method, the usual fitting method was used, and in the second method, the fitting was done by dividing the main equation into  $x_1x_2$ . The efficiency of the equations was studied by comparing the standard deviation obtained from the excess molar volumes and the density of the samples. Fitting the  $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$  values was done by using the mentioned equations and using two fitting methods in each equation. Due to the lack of acceptable results from the fitting of the  $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$  values for the  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O system, the fitting data of this system was not studied. In Table 2, the standard deviation related to fitting the  $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$  values and density data of the ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG and ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP using the mentioned equations are reported. According to the results of Table 2, it can be concluded that the standard deviation related to the polynomial eqn (7), in fitting the data in both systems are acceptable while the second method has a better efficiency in fitting than the first method.

In Table S3<sup>†</sup> the standard deviations obtained from fitting the  $V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}$  values and density data are reported for ZrO<sub>2</sub>–PPG and ZrO<sub>2</sub>–H<sub>2</sub>O–PVP systems, respectively, using temperature dependent equations. According to these tables, the efficiency of the polynomial equation with temperature dependency for

**Table 2** Standard deviations ( $\sigma$ ) from fitting the excess molar volume ( $V_m^E$ ) values in eqn (5)–(7) for  $ZrO_2$ –PPG and  $ZrO_2$ –H<sub>2</sub>O–PVP at different temperatures

	Ott et al.		Redlich-Kiste	r	Polynomial	
	Method 1	Method 2	Method 1	Method 2	Method 1	Method 2
ZrO <sub>2</sub> -PPG						
T = 293.15  K						
$10^3 \times \sigma (V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}/({\rm cm}^3 {\rm ~mol}^{-1}))$	8.7	1.8	20.4	10.0	7.4	1.7
$10^4 \times \sigma (d/g \text{ cm}^{-3})$	6.1	4.8	6.1	5.0	6.1	4.8
T = 298.15  K						
$10^3 \times \sigma (V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}/({\rm cm}^3 {\rm ~mol}^{-1}))$	5.8	0.9	95.5	26.2	21.9	0.8
$10^4  imes \sigma ~(d/{ m g~cm^{-3}})$	10.2	7.9	10.2	7.2	10.2	7.9
T = 308.15 K						
$10^3  imes \sigma \left(V_{ m m}^{ m E}/({ m cm}^3 \ { m mol}^{-1}) ight)$	7.4	1.7	65.0	5.2	64.5	1.6
$10^4 imes\sigma$ ( $d/{ m g~cm^{-3}}$ )	17.6	13.8	17.6	13.8	17.6	13.8
T = 318.15  K						
$10^3  imes \sigma \left(V_{ m m}^{ m E}/({ m cm}^3 \ { m mol}^{-1}) ight)$	4.9	3.0	553.7	5.6	142.0	2.9
$10^4 imes\sigma~(d/{ m g~cm^{-3}})$	30.5	24.2	30.0	24.2	30.2	24.2
Overall $(10^3 \times \sigma (V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}/({\rm cm}^3 {\rm mol}^{-1})))$	6.7	1.9	178.7	11.8	58.9	1.8
Overall $(10^4 \times \sigma \ (d/g \ cm^{-3}))$	16.1	12.7	16.0	12.6	16.0	12.7
ZrO <sub>2</sub> -H <sub>2</sub> O-PVP (30% w/w)						
T = 293.15  K						
$10^4  imes \sigma \left( V_{ m m}^{ m E}/({ m cm}^3 \ { m mol}^{-1})  ight)$	8.8	0.3	4.7	2.3	4.0	0.7
$10^4 imes\sigma~(d/{ m g~cm^{-3}})$	1.0	0.8	1.3	0.8	1.0	0.8
T = 298.15  K						
$10^4 imes \sigma \left(V_{ m m}^{ m E}/({ m cm}^3~{ m mol}^{-1}) ight)$	3.6	4.2	3.9	2.0	3.9	0.9
$10^4 imes\sigma$ ( $d/{ m g~cm^{-3}}$ )	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.2
T = 308.15  K						
$10^4  imes \sigma \left(V_{ m m}^{ m E}/({ m cm}^3 \ { m mol}^{-1}) ight)$	1.4	1.4	6.4	1.2	5.2	0.7
$10^4 imes\sigma~(d/{ m g~cm^{-3}})$	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.5	40.5	1.5
T = 318.15  K						
$10^4 \times \sigma \left( V_{\mathrm{m}}^{\mathrm{E}} / (\mathrm{cm}^3 \mathrm{mol}^{-1}) \right)$	0.9	1.0	8.9	0.7	6.2	0.6
$10^4  imes \sigma \left( d/\mathrm{g \ cm}^{-3} \right)$	2.3	1.9	2.3	1.9	2.3	1.9
Overall $(10^4 \times \sigma (V_m^E/(cm^3 \text{ mol}^{-1})))$	3.6	1.7	5.9	1.5	4.8	0.7
Overall $(10^4 \times \sigma (d/g \text{ cm}^{-3}))$	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.3	11.3	1.3

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Table 3 Excess molar volume ( $V_m^E$ ) parameters of eqn (5)–(7) using the first fitting method for  $ZrO_2$ –PPG and  $ZrO_2$ –H<sub>2</sub>O–PVP systems at different temperatures

$ZrO_2$ -PPG – eqn (5)							
		$10^{-5} \times A_0$	10 <sup>-</sup>	$^{-5}  imes A_1$	$10^{-5}$ ×	$A_2$	σ
T = 293.15  K							
$10^6 \times V_{\rm m}^{\rm E} / ({\rm m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$ T = 208.15 K		0.07845	0.1	66	0.08751		0.020
1 = 298.13  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}} / (\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$		-0.5284	-1.	.083	-0.5554	1	0.095
T = 308.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}} / (\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$		-1.64	-3.	.376	-1.738		0.065
T = 318.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}} / (\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$		-3.881	-7.	.996	-4.12		0.553
ZrO <sub>2</sub> -H <sub>2</sub> O-PVP30% - eqr	n (5)						
		$10^{-4}  imes A_0$	$10^{-7}$	$\times A_1$	$10^{-4}  imes A_2$	2	$\sigma imes 10^4$
T = 293.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}/(\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$		3.431	-2.0	)14	-3.435		4.70
T = 298.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}} / (\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$		3.8	-2.1	-2.163 -			3.90
T = 308.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}} / (\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$		4.031	2.07	2	-4.037		6.47
T = 318.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}} / (\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$		4.361	-2.8	884	-4.368		8.97
$ZrO_2$ -PPG – eqn (6)							
	$A_0$	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	σ
T = 293.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}} / (\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$	1.164	-368.304	0.00074	-0.931	0.001375	359.181	0.008
I = 298.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{E}}^{\text{E}} / (\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$	607.679	-62.253	-112.654	-106.015	-25.958	97.299	0.005
T = 308.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\rm E}^{\rm E} / ({\rm m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$	545.88	-365.089	-104.117	283.253	-7.734	-358.568	0.007
I = 318.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}} / (\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$	492.221	-519.075	-445.575	40.94	1790	-1990000	0.004
ZrO <sub>2</sub> –H <sub>2</sub> O–PVP30% – eqr	n (6)						
	$A_0$	$A_1$	$A_2$	$10^{-4}  imes A_3$	$A_4$	$10^{-3}  imes A_5$	σ
T = 293.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}/(\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$	1.757	1.167	39.417	3.4	614.014	-3.469	8.87
T = 298.13  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}} / (\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$ T = 308.15  K	334.554	-237.219	-248.974	0.0836299	40.959	-0.044249	3.64
$10^{6} \times V_{m}^{E} / (m^{3} \text{ mol})^{-1}$ T - 318 15 K	8480	1896	-2007	0.495	-4.152	-0.4953	1.41
$10^6 \times V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}/({\rm m}^3 {\rm mol})^{-1}$	7742	1586	-1704	0.3406	-6.208	-0.3407	0.92
$ZrO_2$ -PPG - eqn (7)							
		$A_0$	$10^{-}$	$^{4} \times A_{1}$	$10^{-6} \times 10^{-6}$	A <sub>2</sub>	σ
T = 293.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}/(\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$ T = 208.15  K		-5.918	-0.	18	0.03501		0.007
I = 298.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}} / (\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$ T = 208.15  K		-70.656	0.55	546	-0.2222	2	0.021
1 - 300.13  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}} / (\text{m}^3 \text{ mol})^{-1}$ T - 318.15  K		-200.6	1.99	99	-0.695		0.064
$10^6 \times V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}/({\rm m}^3 {\rm mol})^{-1}$		-445.801	4.80	56	-1.648		0.142

$10^4 \sigma$
4.07
3.90
5.27
6.21

both systems and using both methods is better than the Redlich-Keister and Ott equations with temperature dependency. Also, the efficiency of the second method in fitting of the  $V_m^E$  values and density data was better than the first method in all equations. Therefore, according to the results of the standard deviation of all systems and all temperatures, the efficiency of the polynomial equation with the second method and temperature dependency is better than other methods. The parameters of Redlich-Kister, Ott *et al.* and polynomial equations, using the first fitting method are also reported in Table 3.

Also, the parameters of the Redlich–Kister, Ott *et al.* and polynomial equations using the second fitting method are reported in Table 4.

Continuous lines in Fig. 6(a) and (c) correspond to this equation. The parameters of the polynomial equation with temperature dependency and using the second fitting method, for ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG and ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP systems are reported in Table S4.<sup>†</sup> The continuous lines in Fig. S1(a) and (b)<sup>†</sup> for ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG and ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP systems are in accordance with this model, which is compared with the obtained experimental data. The parameters of Redlich-Kister, 58,59 Ott57 and polynomial temperature dependent equations using the first fitting method, are reported in Tables S5, S6, and S7<sup>†</sup> respectively. Also, the parameters of the temperature dependent equations of Redlich-Kister58,59 and Ott57 using the second fitting method are reported in Tables S8 and S9.† The isentropic compressibility  $(\kappa_s)$  data of the considered systems were fitted by the polynomial equation. The parameters obtained from this equation are reported in Table 4 for ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG and ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP nanofluids. Continuous lines in Fig. 6(b) and (d) correspond to this equation. These figures and Table 4 show that the efficiency of the polynomial equation is acceptable.

$$V_{\rm m}^{\rm E} = x_1 x_2 \sum_{h \ge 0} A_h (x_1 - x_2)^h$$
(5)

$$V_{\rm m}^{\rm E} = x_2(1-x_2) \left[ \exp(-\gamma x_2) \sum_{I=0}^{1} B_1(1-2x_2)^I + (1 - \exp(-\gamma x_2)) \sum_{I=0}^{3} (1-2x_2)^I \right]$$
(6)

$$V_{\rm m}^{\rm E} = \sum_{h \ge 0} x_1 x_2 A_h(x_1)^h \tag{7}$$

It is important to fit viscosity data of nanofluids by considering the dependence of concentration and temperature simultaneously. In some equations, the temperature dependency is only considered. The equations with only a concentration dependency are alternatively used for predicting the viscosity of nanofluids systems at each temperature. Models that altogether consider temperature and concentration dependence have many parameters. In recent years, the Eyring-NRTL model has been used with good efficiency in fitting the viscosity data. In this research, the effectiveness of the mentioned model and the new Eyring-MRTF model in fitting the viscosity data of  $ZrO_2$ -PPG and  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP nanofluids systems have been investigated. The Eyring-NRTL equation is as follows:<sup>14,60-63</sup>

$$n(\eta V) = \sum_{I=1}^{n} \phi_{I} \ln(\eta_{I} V_{I}) + \sum_{I=1}^{n} \phi_{I} \frac{\sum_{J=1}^{n} \phi_{J} A_{JI} G_{JI}}{\sum_{J=1}^{n} \phi_{J} G_{JI}}$$
(8)

$$A_{JI} = a_{JI} + b_{JI}T \tag{9}$$

$$G_{JI} = \exp\left(-\frac{\alpha A_{JI}}{RT}\right) \tag{10}$$

*V* and *V<sub>I</sub>* are the molar volume of the nanofluid and component *I*,  $\varphi_I$  is the volume fraction of component *I*, equal to  $\frac{x_I V_I}{\sum_{J=1}^3 (x_J V_J)}$  in which  $x_I$  is the mole fraction of component *I*. The *T* is temperature and *R* is the universal constant of gases;  $a_{JJ}$  and  $b_{JJ}$  are empirical parameters of the Eyring-NRTL model. The *a* is the non-randomness factor which was set to 0.2 in this work. The Eyring-mNRF model is represented by the following equation:<sup>14,60-63</sup>

$$\ln(\eta V) = \sum_{I=1}^{n} X_{I} \ln(\eta_{I} V_{I})$$

$$+ \frac{N}{N_{s}} \sum_{w''} x_{w''} \sum_{j} \sum_{w'} \sum_{w} \sum_{w} \frac{X_{w} \frac{\lambda_{jw,w'w}}{RT} \left( -X_{w} \Gamma_{w'w} - X_{j} \Gamma_{w'w} + 1 \right)}{X_{j} + X_{w}}$$

$$+ \sum_{w''} \sum_{p} r_{p,w''} x_{p} \sum_{j} \sum_{s''} \sum_{s'} \frac{X_{s'} \frac{\lambda_{s''s',js'}}{RT} \left( X_{s'} \Gamma_{s''s'} - X_{j} \Gamma_{s''s'} - 1 \right)}{X_{s'} + X_{j}}$$
(11)

Paper

Table 4Excess molar volume ( $V_m^E$ ) parameters of eqn (5)–(7) using the second fitting method for  $\rm ZrO_2-PPG$  and  $\rm ZrO_2-H_2O-PVP$  through utilization of Redlich-Kister and Ott equations at different temperatures

ZrO <sub>2</sub> -PPG - eqr	n (5)							
		$10^{-3}A_0$	$A_1$		$10^{-3}$	42	σ	
T = 293.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}/\text{m}^3 \text{ m}$ T = 298.15  K	$ol^{-1}$	-6.097	-:	12090	-5.9	92	0.010	
1 = 290.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}/\text{m}^3 \text{ m}$	$ol^{-1}$	-7.758	-1	15410	-7.6	58	0.026	
1 = 308.13  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}/\text{m}^3 \text{ m}$	$ol^{-1}$	-0.20626	8 —0	0.0002367	0.197	7979	0.005	
I = 318.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}/\text{m}^3 \text{ m}^6$	$ol^{-1}$	-7.764	-1	15450	-7.7	09	0.005	
ZrO <sub>2</sub> -H <sub>2</sub> O-PVP3	30% –е	qn (5)						
		$10^{-3}A_{0}$	)	$A_1$	$10^{-3}A$	2	$10^4 \sigma$	
T = 293.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}/\text{m}^3 \text{ m}^2$ T = 298.15  K	$\mathrm{ol}^{-1}$	5.657		7.866	-5.65	6	2.36	
1 = 236.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}/\text{m}^3 \text{ m}^6$	$ol^{-1}$	4.57		7.637	-4.56	58	2.02	
T = 308.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}/\text{m}^3 \text{ m}^6$	$ol^{-1}$	3.667		7.405	-3.66	57	1.25	
T = 318.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}/\text{m}^3 \text{ m}^6$	$ol^{-1}$	3.044		7.439	-3.04	4	0.73	
ZrO <sub>2</sub> -PPG - eqr	n (6)							
A	<b>4</b> <sub>0</sub>	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	σ	
T = 293.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}$ / $\text{m}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$	-18.65	6 –703.285	5 772.4	35 -69.78	3 0.526	0.245	5 0.001	
T = 298.15  K $10^{6} \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}$ / - $\text{m}^{3} \text{ mol}^{-1}$	-69.88	2 –28.451	25.21	3 -1.78	5 0.686	1.38	0.000	
T = 308.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}} / -$ $\text{m}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$	-68.04	1 -13.028	8.654	-8.740	5 -1.87	1 5.232	2 0.001	
T = 318.15  K $10^{6} \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}$ / - $\text{m}^{3} \text{ mol}^{-1}$	-87.46	9 -1.385	-0.72	4 -17.79	96 -5.389	9 2.320	5 0.003	
ZrO <sub>2</sub> -H <sub>2</sub> O-PVP3	ZrO <sub>2</sub> -H <sub>2</sub> O-PVP30% - eqn (6)							
I	4 <sub>0</sub> .	$A_1 \qquad A_2$		$10^{-4}A_3$	$A_4$	$10^{-3}$	$I_5 \sigma$	
T = 293.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}$ / $\text{m}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$	-3900	57 <b>.</b> 508 —	53.281	-0.2153	-28.07	2.173	0.37	
T = 298.15  K $10^{6} \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}$ / $\text{m}^{3} \text{ mol}^{-1}$	-1977	706.587 —	681.511	-1.482	-20.593	14.81	4.26	
T = 308.15  K $10^6 \times V_{\text{m}}^{\text{E}}$ / ( $\text{m}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ T = 318.15  K	).222	223.192 —	43.175	0.3742	-0.528	-3.65	59 1.45	

 $10^6 imes V_{
m m}^{
m E}/$  ${
m m}^3~{
m mol}^{-1}$  $0.558 \quad -7.376 \quad -10.963 \quad 0.305 \qquad 0.133$  $-3.039 \ 1.04$ 

Table 4 (Contd.)

$ZrO_{2-}PPG - eqn(7)$				
	$A_0$	$A_1$	$A_2$	σ
T = 293.15  K				
$10^6 \times V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}/{\rm m}^3 \ {\rm mol}^{-1}$	-0.012	-210.271	$-2.396.10^4$	0.00179
$\kappa_{\rm s}/({\rm T~Pa}^{-1})$	$4.999.10^{-7}$	$1.188.10^{-6}$	$-1.282.10^{-5}$	0.842
T = 298.15  K				
$10^6 \times V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}/{\rm m}^3 \ {\rm mol}^{-1}$	-3.324	-193.136	$-3.063.10^4$	0.00089
$\kappa_{\rm s}/({\rm T~Pa}^{-1})$	510.745	$1.731.10^3$	$-4.975.10^4$	0.177
T = 308.15  K				
$10^6 \times V_{\mathrm{m}}^{\mathrm{E}}/\mathrm{m}^3 \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$	-10.146	-242.146	$-2.906.10^4$	0.0045
$\kappa_{\rm s}/({\rm T~Pa}^{-1})$	542.137	$1.41.10^{3}$	$-3.591.10^4$	0.176
T = 318.15  K				
$10^6 \times V_{\mathrm{m}}^{\mathrm{E}}/\mathrm{m}^3 \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$	-23.497	-62.186	$-3.084.10^4$	0.00294
$\kappa_{\rm s}/({\rm T~Pa}^{-1})$	576.161	683.678	-1.012	0.630
ZrO <sub>2</sub> -H <sub>2</sub> O-PVP30% -	$- \operatorname{eqn}(7)$ $A_0$	$A_1$	$A_2$	$10^4 \sigma$
T = 293.15  K		4		
$10^{\circ} \times V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}/{\rm m}^{3} {\rm mol}^{-1}$	-5.892	$2.263.10^4$	11.283	0.72
$\kappa_{\rm s}/({\rm T~Pa^{-1}})$	350.274	832.154	$3.125.10^{-4}$	0.015
T = 298.15  K		4		
$10^{\circ} \times V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}/{\rm m}^{3} {\rm mol}^{-1}$	-6.49	$1.828.10^{4}$	9.428	0.91
$\kappa_{\rm s}/({\rm T~Pa^{-1}})$	349.154	217.412	1.065	0.020
T = 308.15  K		4		
$10^{\circ} \times V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}/{\rm m}^{3} {\rm mol}^{-1}$	-6.98	$1.468.10^4$	7.762	0.73
$\kappa_{\rm s}/({\rm T~Pa^{-1}})$	347.905	400.153	1.122	0.015
T = 318.15  K				
$10^{\circ} \times V_{\rm m}^{\rm E}/{\rm m}^3 {\rm mol}^{-1}$	-7.595	$1.218.10^4$	6.624	1.92
$\kappa_{\rm s}/({\rm T~Pa^{-1}})$	346.788	652.935	1.22	0.007

$$\Gamma_{is'} = \frac{\beta_{is',ws'}}{\sum_{w'} X_{w'} \beta_{w'i,ws'} + \sum_{s''} X_{s''} \beta_{is'',ws'}}$$
(12)

$$\Gamma_{iw} = \frac{1}{\sum_{w'} X_{w'} \beta_{iw',iw} + \sum_{s'} X_{s'} \beta_{s'i,iw}}$$
(13)

 $\lambda_{ij,kl} = \lambda_{ij,lk} = \lambda_{ji,kl} = \lambda_{ji,lk} = -\lambda_{kl,ij} = -\lambda_{lk,ij} = -\lambda_{lk,ji} = -\lambda_{lk,ji} (14)$ 

$$\omega_{ij,kl} = \omega_{ij,lk} = \omega_{ji,kl} = \omega_{ji,lk} = -\omega_{kl,ij}$$
$$= -\omega_{lk,ij} = -\omega_{lk,ji} = -\omega_{lk,ji}$$
(15)

$$\beta_{ij,lk} = \exp\left(-\frac{\lambda_{ij,lk}}{ZRT} + \frac{\omega_{ij,lk}}{RT}\right)$$
(16)

$$X_{\rm s} = \frac{X_2}{\sum\limits_{I=1}^{3} r_I X_I}$$
(17)

where,  $r_{p,w_{\pi}}$  approximates the ratio of the molar volume of the polymer (p) and corresponding solvent molecule (w''). N is the total number of polymers, nanoparticles and solvents. Subscripts *s*, *s'*, *s''* represented polymer monomers,

Table 5 E	Eyring-NRTL and Eyring-mNRF	model parameters along with standard deviation	( $\sigma$ ) for ZrO <sub>2</sub> -PPG and ZrO <sub>2</sub> -H <sub>2</sub> O-PVP
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ZrO <sub>2</sub> -PPG					
Eyring-NRTL	$a_{12} - 8168.231$	$b_{12} -33.02$	<i>a</i> <sub>21</sub> 83 288.78	$b_{21} = -7.639$	$\sigma (\eta/mPa s)$ 0.001
Eyring-mNRF	$\lambda_{1sss}$ 11 078 397.892	$\lambda_{11s1} = -13\ 187\ 248.059$	$\omega_{1sss}$ 1 382 771.024	$\omega_{11s1}$ 81 508.806	$\sigma (\eta/mPa s)$ 0.001
ZrO <sub>2</sub> -H <sub>2</sub> O-PVP					
Eyring-NRTL	$a_{12} = -0.107$	<i>b</i> <sub>12</sub> -37.986	<i>a</i> <sub>21</sub> 242.359	<i>b</i> <sub>21</sub> 94.6	σ (η/mPa s) 0.001
Eyring-mNRF	$\lambda_{1sss}$ -37 855.873	$\lambda_{11s1}$ -65 583 122.907	$\omega_{1sss}$ 7443.86	$\omega_{11s1} \\ -8191662.783$	σ (η/mPa s) 0.001

nanoparticle and solvent moles, w, w', w'' show the solvent molecules; i, j, k and l stand for segments of polymer chain, solvent molecules and nanoparticles. The  $\lambda_{ij,lk}$  and  $w_{ij,lk}$  are the parameters of the Eyring-mNRF model. Z is the non-random factor which was set to 8 in this work.

Parameters of the Eyring-mNRF model along with the standard deviation resulting from this model and also the Eyring-NRTL model resulting from fitting the viscosity data of the  $ZrO_2$ -PPG and  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP nanofluids systems are shown in Table 5. In order to observe the performance of the Eyring-NRTL and Eyring-mNRF models in a better manner, the experimental and calculated viscosity values with these two models are shown in Fig. 8.



**Fig. 8** Viscosity by weight fraction for nanofluid (a)  $ZrO_2$ -PPG and (b)  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP at  $T = ((\blacksquare) 293.15, (\bullet) 298.15, (\blacktriangle) 308.15, (\bullet) 318.15)$  K compared to (-) NRTL and (--) mNRF equation.

As can be seen from Table 5, the performance of both Eyring-NRTL and Eyring-mNRF models is good in fitting the viscosity data of both systems.

# 5. Prediction

The viscosity data of nanofluids containing two components can be predicted by well-known equations such as Einstein (18), Brinkman (19), Lundgren (20) and Batchelor (21) models. These equations are as follows:

$$\eta = \eta_2 (1 + 2.5\varphi_1) \tag{18}$$

$$\eta = \eta_2 \left( \frac{1}{1 - \varphi_1^{2.5}} \right)$$
(19)

$$\eta = \eta_2 \left( 1 + 2.5\varphi_1 + \frac{25}{4}\varphi_1^2 + f(\varphi_1^3) \right)$$
(20)

$$\eta = \eta_2 (1 + 2.5\varphi_1 + 6.2\varphi_1^2) \tag{21}$$

In eqn (18), the  $\eta$  and  $\eta_2$  are the viscosity of nanofluid and viscosity of base fluid, respectively and in eqn (20),  $f(\varphi_1^3)$  is the Taylor series for volume fraction of nanofluid ( $\varphi_1$ ). The Taylor series is as follows eqn (22):<sup>14</sup>

$$f(\varphi_1^{3}) = 0.01 + 0.0003(\varphi_1 - 0.01) + 0.03(\varphi_1 - 0.01)^2 + (\varphi_1 - 0.01)^3$$
(22)

In this research, the viscosity data of  $ZrO_2$ -PPG and  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP nanofluids have been predicted by these equations at four temperatures; the results are reported in Table 6. This table show the good performance of the mentioned models and especially the Lundgren model eqn (20) in predicting the viscosity data of  $ZrO_2$ -PPG and  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP in the dilute concentration region.

The good performance of the Lundgren model eqn (20) in predicting the viscosity data of  $ZrO_2$ -PPG and  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP nanofluids, particularly in the dilute concentration region, can be attributed to several key factors. This model effectively accounts for the interaction between dispersed nanoparticles and the base fluid, making it highly suitable for capturing the behavior of nanofluids in dilute concentrations where particle**Table 6** Standard deviations ( $\sigma$  ( $\eta$ /mPa s)) and absolute average relative deviations (AARD) obtained from prediction of viscosity values of nanofluid of ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG and ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP with Einstein<sup>64-66</sup> (eqn (18)), Brinkman<sup>65,67</sup> (eqn (19)), Lundgren<sup>68</sup> (eqn (20)) and Batchelor<sup>69</sup> (eqn (21)) models

<i>T</i> /K	Einstein n	Einstein model		Brinkman model		Lundgren model		Batchelor model	
	σ	100 AARD	σ	100 AARD	σ	100 AARD	σ	100 AARD	
ZrO <sub>2</sub> -PPG									
293.15	4.227	3.371	4.584	3.624	3.440	2.406	4.225	3.369	
298.15	3.032	2.553	3.292	2.807	2.615	1.580	3.030	2.552	
308.15	2.159	3.763	2.304	4.013	1.875	2.802	2.159	3.762	
318.15	1.416	3.681	1.507	3.930	1.254	2.719	1.416	3.680	
ZrO <sub>2</sub> -H <sub>2</sub> O-	PVP								
293.15	1.926	3.072	1.966	3.132	1.339	2.103	1.926	3.072	
298.15	1.952	3.541	1.985	3.601	1.513	2.577	1.952	3.541	
308.15	1.618	4.478	1.641	4.537	1.289	3.523	1.618	4.477	
318.15	0.744	2.716	0.761	2.777	0.501	1.744	0.744	2.716	

particle interactions are minimal. In this regard, viscosity is mainly influenced by individual nanoparticles, and the Lundgren model is specifically designed to handle such conditions. Additionally, the model likely considers the shearthinning behavior of nanofluids like  $ZrO_2$ -PPG and  $ZrO_2$ -H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP, which further enhances its adaptability to different flow dynamics at low concentrations. Moreover, the model incorporates temperature sensitivity, enabling it to accurately reflect the temperature-dependent viscosity of nanofluids, which is crucial for predicting viscosity across various temperatures. These factors collectively explain the model's superior accuracy in predicting viscosity under these conditions.

# 6. Conclusions

In these research, ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG nanofluid was found to be the most stable among the studied nanofluids, remaining stable for over a month. ZrO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O nanofluid was stable for 24 hours, while ZrO<sub>2</sub>-PPG-H<sub>2</sub>O nanofluid was unstable at different ratios. The addition of water to the ZrO2-PPG system increased interactions between the polymer and water, leading to nanoparticle agglomeration. The size of nanoparticles in the stable ZrO2-PPG nanofluid was found to be larger than the initial size. Excess molar volume and isentropic compressibility were calculated from density, speed of sound, and viscosity measurements. Negative excess molar volume values suggested unlike interactions and compression effects, while positive values indicated Van der Waals interactions. ZrO2-H2O nanofluid exhibited interactions between water molecules and nanoparticles. ZrO2-H<sub>2</sub>O-PVP nanofluid with 30% polymer was the most stable, with dominant unlike interactions in dilute and semi-dilute regions and Van der Waals forces in concentrated regions. Redlich-Kister, Ott, and polynomial equations were used to fit excess molar volume data, the polynomial equation with temperature dependence performing best. Eyring-NRTL and Eyring-mNRF models were used to correlate viscosity data, with both models showing good performance. Einstein, Brinkman, Lundgren, and

Batchelor models were used to predict viscosity data of ZrO<sub>2</sub>–PPG and ZrO<sub>2</sub>–H<sub>2</sub>O–PVP nanofluids at four temperatures.

There is minimal limitation about the focus on potential industrial applications or scalability, which is critical for determining the real-world relevance of these findings. The findings may apply to other nanofluid systems that is not investigated yet. Future research on ZrO2-based nanofluids could focus on enhancing the stability of ZrO2-H2O and ZrO2-PPG-H<sub>2</sub>O systems by exploring additives or surface modifications to prevent nanoparticle agglomeration. Further studies on the interaction mechanisms, particularly in mixed fluid systems, can provide deeper insights into optimizing nanofluid properties for various applications. Advanced modeling approaches, integrating temperature dependence and particle dynamics, could refine predictions of viscosity and other thermophysical properties. Additionally, improving the stability and performance of these nanofluids could enhance their potential in heat transfer and industrial applications.

# Data availability

Data are available upon request from the authors.

# Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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