<sup>1</sup> Application of machine-learning algorithms to predict the transport properties of <sup>2</sup> Mie fluids

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The ability to predict transport properties of fluids, such as the self-diffusion coefficient and viscosity, has been an ongoing effort in the field of molecular modelling. While there are theoretical approaches to predict the transport properties of simple systems, they are typically applied in the dilute gas regime and are not directly applicable to more complex systems. Other attempts to predict transport properties are done by fitting available experimental or molecular simulation data to empirical or semi-empirical correlations. Recently, there have been attempts to improve the accuracy of these fittings through the use of Machine Learning (ML) methods. In this work, the application of ML algorithms to represent the transport properties of systems comprising spherical particles interacting *via* the Mie potential is investigated. To this end, the self-diffusion coefficient and shear viscosity of 54 potentials are obtained at different regions of the fluid-phase diagram. This data set is used together with three ML algorithms, namely k-Nearest Neighbours, Artificial Neural Network and Symbolic Regression, to find correlations between the parameters of each potential and the transport properties at different densities and temperatures. It is shown that ANN and KNN perform to a similar extent, followed by SR, which exhibits larger deviations. Finally, the application of the three ML models to predict the self-diffusion coefficient of small molecular systems, such as krypton, methane and carbon dioxide is demonstrated using molecular parameters derived from the so-called SAFT-VR Mie equation of state [J. Chem. Phys. 139, 154504 (2013)] and available experimental vapour-liquid coexistence data.

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# **13 I. INTRODUCTION**

Accurate representation of thermodynamic and transport properties of molecular systems is the key for the design and optimization of chemical and biochemical processes and plays an important the role in several areas of science and technology<sup>1,2</sup>. For many decades, most attention has been transport of robust thermodynamic models of fluids based on activity coefficient models<sup>3</sup>, cubic equations of state<sup>4,5</sup>, and molecular-based models<sup>6–9</sup>. The development of models for the description of transport properties has also been reported in recent years, particularly for high-density liquids. Many of these approaches are based on kinetic theory, mode-coupling theory, free-volume theory, and friction theory<sup>10–13</sup>.

<sup>22</sup> Molecular dynamics is a powerful technique to determine the transport properties of molecular <sup>23</sup> systems using either Green-Kubo or Einstein relations<sup>14,15</sup>, provided a suitable force field is avail-<sup>24</sup> able. The simulations can be used to test theoretical predictions of transport properties. However, <sup>25</sup> molecular simulations can be computationally expensive and not suitable for fast property predic-<sup>26</sup> tion required in many industrial applications. For this reason, simple empirical and semi-empirical <sup>27</sup> correlations are still commonly used for many engineering calculations, but these equations have <sup>28</sup> a limited range of applicability making them unreliable for the design of novel technologies.

There have been previous attempts to obtain theoretical or semi-empirical expressions for the so self-diffusion coefficients of simple systems, such as hard spheres, Lennard-Jones, WCA, and molecular and atomic species<sup>16–27</sup>. Still, large amounts of data are required for fitting the expressions that typically have complicated functional forms with multiple fitting parameters. A similar situation has been observed in the developments of semi-empirical equations for the viscosity<sup>28–31</sup>, however, new advances in the use of equations of state coupled with methods such as the freevolume, kinetic, and friction theories to predict shear viscosity of complex molecular systems have been reported, particularly for the prediction of the shear viscosity<sup>32–34</sup>.

To facilitate the way the predictions about the behaviour of transport properties are made, attention has been turning to machine learning (ML) methods. These methods are able to take the plarge amounts of data available and explore possible correlations between the system parameters and properties of interest. This change towards ML methods has already been taking place in similar fields, such as in the prediction of physicochemical properties<sup>35–54</sup>. For a recent account the recent reviews by Schmidt *et al.*<sup>55</sup>, Moud *et al.*<sup>56</sup> and here *et al.*<sup>57</sup> The use of ML to predict transport properties, such as the self-diffusion coefficient, <sup>44</sup> has been studied to a much lesser extent<sup>58</sup>. ML algorithms to study transport properties have been <sup>45</sup> used to predict diffusion in binary hydrocarbons<sup>59</sup>, water mixtures<sup>60</sup>, polar and non-polar binary <sup>46</sup> gases<sup>61</sup>, organic molecules<sup>62,63</sup>, and CO<sub>2</sub><sup>64</sup>. Recently, the application of ML algorithms to study <sup>47</sup> the self-diffusion coefficient of Lennard-Jones systems has been reported<sup>65–68</sup>, where the accuracy <sup>48</sup> of the predictions was increased by more than one order of magnitude compared to semi-empirical <sup>49</sup> equations.

In this work, ML methods are applied to predict the transport properties, particularly self-50 <sup>51</sup> diffusion coefficient and viscosity, of spherical particles interacting *via* the Mie potential<sup>69</sup>. The <sup>52</sup> Mie potential is a generalized form of the Lennard-Jones potential but with the advantage that 53 the repulsive and attractive contributions can be tuned to represent accurately the properties of <sup>54</sup> real molecular systems. This potential has been used to study successfully the behaviour of small <sup>55</sup> molecular systems (H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, SF<sub>6</sub>, and CF<sub>4</sub>)<sup>70–73</sup>, and is also the underlying intermolecular <sup>56</sup> potential used in several force fields and molecular-based theories for the description of properties <sup>57</sup> of complex molecular systems<sup>9,74,75</sup>. The different combinations of the repulsive and attractive 58 contributions impart a large variability of the potential, which also means that there is not a large <sup>59</sup> amount of published data, especially of transport properties, that can be used in this approach 60 using ML methods. Only a small amount of published research in the literature report data on 61 many different types of Mie potentials since most reports concentrate on modelling real particles <sup>62</sup> using a specific combination of potential parameters, hence only a fraction of the potential space 63 is explored and published in the literature. Therefore, in this work, the data required to fit the ML 64 models are also determined.

This paper is organised as follows. In Sec. II, the simulation methods employed to obtain the self-diffusion coefficient and shear viscosity data required for the ML algorithms are described. In the same section, the different ML algorithms applied in this work are discussed. In Sec. III, the performance of the ML algorithms in each of the cases studied is reported, and the application of the methods to describe the self-diffusion coefficient of three quasi-spherical systems, namely krypton Kr, methane CH<sub>4</sub>, and carbon dioxide CO<sub>2</sub> is discussed. Finally, in Sec. IV, the runclusions of the work are presented.

#### 72 II. METHODS

# 73 A. Molecular-dynamics simulations

The molecular model consists of spherical particles interacting via the Mie potential given by  $^{69}$ 

$$\phi(r) = \mathscr{C}\varepsilon\left[\left(\frac{\sigma}{r}\right)^n - \left(\frac{\sigma}{r}\right)^m\right],\tag{1}$$

<sup>75</sup> where *r* is the interparticle distance,  $\varepsilon$  is the potential well-depth,  $\sigma$  is the diameter of the particles, <sup>76</sup> and the exponents *n* and *m* describe the range of the repulsive and attractive contributions of the <sup>77</sup> potential, respectively. The coefficient  $\mathscr{C}$  in Equation 1 is given by

$$\mathscr{C} \equiv \left(\frac{n}{n-m}\right) \left(\frac{n}{m}\right)^{\frac{m}{n-m}},\tag{2}$$

<sup>78</sup> and is defined such that the minimum of the potential is set at  $-\varepsilon$ . The Mie(n,m) potential is a <sup>79</sup> generalised form of the well-known Lennard-Jones (LJ) potential, which is obtained when n = 12<sup>80</sup> and m = 6. It has been demonstrated that the use of different repulsive and attractive exponents <sup>81</sup> results in a much better description of the intermolecular interactions of complex systems<sup>9,70,71,75</sup>. <sup>82</sup> While there is freedom in selecting arbitrary values of (n,m) to represent a particular molecular <sup>83</sup> system, it has been shown that there are different combinations of exponents that can lead to the <sup>84</sup> same critical point, albeit different triple points<sup>76</sup>. In particular, Ramrattan *et al.* showed that <sup>85</sup> combinations of exponents with the same cohesive parameter  $\alpha$ , which is defined as

$$\alpha \equiv \mathscr{C}\left(\frac{1}{m-3} - \frac{1}{n-3}\right),\tag{3}$$

exhibit identical critical points<sup>76</sup>. In other words, fluids with the same cohesive parameter are conformal. Due to this observation, it is hypothesised that pair of exponents (n,m) with the same cohesive parameter  $\alpha$  should also exhibit the same transport properties in the fluid region akin to the principle of corresponding states for transport properties<sup>77,78</sup>. To determine the critical point and fluid phase diagram associated with a particular combination of exponents (n,m), the SAFT-VR Mie equation of state (EoS) is employed<sup>9</sup>. This EoS has been shown to represent the critical region accurately due to the high-order terms considered in the Barker and Henderson perturbation theory<sup>79</sup>.

Throughout this work, reduced units are employed to describe thermodynamic and trans-<sup>95</sup> port properties using the Mie potential parameters: number density  $\rho^* = N\sigma^3/V$ , tempera-<sup>96</sup> ture  $T^* = k_{\rm B}T/\varepsilon$ , pressure  $p^* = p\sigma^3/\varepsilon$ , time  $t^* = t[\varepsilon/(m\sigma^2)]^{1/2}$ , self-diffusion coefficient <sup>97</sup>  $D^* = D[m/(\sigma^2 \varepsilon)]^{1/2}$ , and viscosity  $\eta^* = \eta \sigma^2/(\varepsilon m)^{1/2}$ , where *N* is the total number of parti-<sup>98</sup> cles, *V* is the volume of the system, *T* is the absolute temperature,  $k_B$  is the Boltzmann constant, *p* <sup>99</sup> is the absolute pressure, *t* is the time, *m* is the mass of a spherical particle, *D* is the self-diffusion <sup>100</sup> coefficient, and  $\eta$  is the shear viscosity. Similarly, all distances are given in units of  $\sigma$ . To deter-<sup>101</sup> mine the transport properties of the Mie potential, molecular-dynamics simulations are performed <sup>102</sup> in systems comprising  $N = 10^4$  particles in the canonical *NVT* ensemble using the Nosé-Hoover <sup>103</sup> thermostat<sup>80</sup>. For the simulations, the Mie potential is truncated and shifted to zero using a cut-off <sup>104</sup> of  $r_c^* = 6$ . All the simulations are performed using the LAMMPS package<sup>81</sup>. The equations of <sup>105</sup> motion are integrated using the velocity-Verlet algorithm with a time step of  $\Delta t = 0.001\tau$ . For <sup>106</sup> each state point, five independent simulations of 10<sup>7</sup> time steps are performed to collect averages. <sup>107</sup> The self-diffusion coefficient has been calculated using the Einstein equation given by

$$D^* = \frac{1}{6t^*} \langle \Delta r^{*2}(t^*) \rangle, \tag{4}$$

<sup>108</sup> where  $\langle \Delta r^{*2}(t^*) \rangle$  is the ensemble average of the mean-square displacement (MSD) given by

$$\langle \Delta r^{*2}(t^*) \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \Big\langle \sum_{j=1}^{N} [\mathbf{r}_j^*(t^*) - \mathbf{r}_j^*(0)]^2 \Big\rangle, \tag{5}$$

<sup>109</sup> and  $\mathbf{r}_{j}^{*}(t^{*})$  is the position of particle *j* at time  $t^{*}$ . The trajectories used to calculate the MSD are <sup>110</sup> considered independent when the system enters the diffusive regime from the ballistic, i.e., when <sup>111</sup>  $\langle \Delta r^{*2} \rangle \propto t^{*2}$  changes to  $\langle \Delta r^{*2} \rangle \propto t^{*}$ . In this systems, the diffusive regime starts at  $t^{*} \approx 1$ , meaning <sup>112</sup> at least 1000 timesteps are required to reach the change in regime. To ensure our trajectories are <sup>113</sup> uncorrelated, new simulations are started after 10<sup>5</sup> timesteps have elapsed, which is 100 times <sup>114</sup> longer than the average time to decorrelation.

The shear viscosity is calculated through the Green-Kubo relation of the time-correlation of the off-diagonal elements of the pressure tensor given by<sup>15,82,83</sup>

$$\eta^* = \frac{V^*}{T^*} \int_0^\infty \langle p^*_{\alpha\beta}(t^*) p^*_{\alpha\beta}(t^*_0) \rangle \mathrm{d}t^*$$
(6)

<sup>117</sup> where  $p_{\alpha\beta}^*(t^*)$ , with  $\alpha \neq \beta$ , is the off-diagonal component of the pressure tensor at time  $t^*$ . <sup>118</sup> The training data for the ML models have been collected from 54 different Mie(*n*,*m*) potentials. <sup>119</sup> For each potential, 9 state points are sampled in the supercritical region, 5 state points in the liquid <sup>120</sup> phase, and also 5 states in the vapour phase. The state points for the supercritical phase are taken <sup>121</sup> at temperatures of  $T^*/T_c^* = \{1.05, 1.25, 1.5\}$  and densities of  $\rho^*/\rho_c^* = \{0.2, 1, 2\}$  for each potential, <sup>122</sup> where  $T_c$  and  $\rho_c$  are the critical temperature and critical density obtained using the SAFT-VR Mie <sup>123</sup> EoS<sup>9</sup>, respectively. For liquid and vapour phases, 5 state points per potential are chosen at random 124 to ensure that there is no bias in the data collection. For the liquid phase, the state points are 125 chosen by taking random points in the liquid side of the VLE, in the range of  $T^*/T_c^* = 0.8 - 0.95$ 126 and  $\rho^*/\rho_c^* = 1.7 - 2.5$ , while ensuring that the resulting points are at least 5% away from the 127 saturated liquid density. A similar approach is employed to study the vapour phase using the same temperature range  $(T^*/T_c^* = 0.8 - 0.95)$  for densities  $\rho^*/\rho_c^* < 0.7$ , and ensuring that the 128 selected density is  $ho^* > 0.005$  and at least 5% away from the saturated vapour density. Note 129 that the shear viscosity is only computed and analyzed for the liquid-state region. The following 130 131 combinations of Mie exponents are studied:  $\{n = 12 - 14, m = 6 - 8\}, \{n = 15 - 17, m = 6 - 11\}$ 132 and  $\{n = 18 - 20, m = 6 - 14\}$ . These combinations ensure that at least  $n - m \ge 4$  and also cover 133 enough parameter space for the study of real molecular systems. All the transport properties of 134 the Mie potentials determined in this work as well as the ML model files are reported in the <sup>135</sup> Supplementary Information (SI) and are available on GitHub.

# 136 B. Machine Learning

In this work, three algorithms to predict the transport properties of Mie fluids are assessed: *k*-<sup>137</sup> In this work, three algorithms to predict the transport properties of Mie fluids are assessed: *k*-<sup>138</sup> nearest neighbours (KNN), artificial neural network (ANN), and symbolic regression (SR). These <sup>139</sup> algorithms are chosen due to their different levels of complexity and interpretability. KNN and <sup>140</sup> ANN are both "black box" methods, which makes them very difficult to interpret, without studying <sup>141</sup> the resulting algorithm in depth, whereas SR provides a straightforward correlation equation. For <sup>142</sup> all the algorithms, 80% of the data are used to train the model and 20% to test the model. For <sup>143</sup> the case of ANN and KNN, the data is normalized to be in the interval [-1,1]. Before training <sup>144</sup> any model, the self-diffusion coefficient and the shear viscosity are normalized using Chapman-<sup>145</sup> Enskog expressions for the self-diffusion coefficient  $D_0^*$  and the shear viscosity  $\eta_0^*$  of a dilute gas <sup>146</sup> of hard spheres, respectively, given by<sup>10,20</sup>

$$D_0^* = \frac{3}{8} \left(\frac{T^*}{\pi}\right)^{1/2} \frac{1}{\rho^*}$$
(7)

147 and

$$\eta_0^* = \frac{5}{16} \left(\frac{T^*}{\pi}\right)^{1/2} \tag{8}$$

<sup>148</sup> In other words, all ML methods explored in this work are trained in  $D/D_0$  for the self-diffusion, <sup>149</sup> and in  $\eta/\eta_0$  for the viscosity. This semi-empirical approach has also been used by other authors to <sup>150</sup> study systems such as hard spheres<sup>19</sup> and Lennard-Jones fluids<sup>84</sup>. The quantification of errors and <sup>151</sup> accuracy of the models, however, are reported with respect to  $D^*$  and  $\eta^*$ . The heat maps of the <sup>152</sup> errors observed using the three different ML in the phase space are presented in the Supplementary <sup>153</sup> Information, as well as the prediction of our method to predict available transport properties of LJ <sup>154</sup> particles.

The performance of the ML algorithms with respect to the testing data has been quantified using the coefficient of determination  $R^2$  as well as the absolute average relative deviation (AARD) to defined as

AARD = 
$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{|(y_i - \hat{y}_i)|}{y_i} \times 100\%,$$
 (9)

where *n* is the number of samples, and  $y_i$  and  $\hat{y}_i$  indicate the true and predicted values of the sample is *i*, respectively. Both AARD and  $R^2$  are used in assessing the performance of ML algorithms and, in the case of ANN and KNN, are also used in determining the accuracy of a learning method in is itself. The calculation of method-training accuracy is done using 10-fold cross-validation (CV10), which entails dividing the test data into 10 different randomly selected and equal-sized sections, training the model with 9 of the sections and validating with the 10<sup>th</sup> section. This process is is of the performance using AARD. Both ANN and KNN methods have been implemented in Python is 3 using the *scikit-learn* library version 1.2.2<sup>85</sup>.

The complexity and performance of the ANN are largely influenced by the number of hidden 167 <sup>168</sup> layers and the number of neurons each layer has. Additional layers provide the ability for the ANN to capture more complex input/output dependencies but require more time and data to train. 169 Additionally, more complex ANN architectures may lead to data over-fitting if the underlying 170 correlations are less complex, so the choice of architecture needs to be optimized. In this work, 171 the performances of networks with different numbers of hidden layers and numbers of neurons 172 in the hidden layers are quantified using AARD as the metric for comparison. It is found that 173 a neural network with a single hidden layer consisting of 28 nodes is sufficient and increasing 174 the complexity does not significantly improve the performance. The activation function used is 175 176 the reLU function, the training is done for 1000 epochs and the *lbfgs* solver is used for back-177 propagation.

The KNN algorithm can be used for both classification and regression, and uses a number of k nearest neighbours to perform interpolation to predict a new state. In classification, the method

 $_{180}$  uses the distances to these k neighbours to classify the test point, while in regression problems, the values of the neighbours are weighted by the distances to the neighbours to predict the value of 181 182 the test point. The hyperparameters of the KNN algorithm play a primary role in the performance and efficiency of the algorithm. To select the most appropriate hyperparameters, CV10 is used 183 to find the combination of hyperparameters that lead to the lowest AARD. The hyperparameters 184 validated are the value of k, the weights assigned to the data points, the algorithm to find the 185 closest points, and the power parameter for the Minkowski metric. During the validation, none 186 of the hyperparameters tested shows a significant drop in performance in both quality and speed, 187 with the largest difference in performance only observed when changing the value of k. The 188 hyperparameters that provide the best performance are k=4, the neighbouring points weighted 189 by distance, and the power parameter of 4 in the Minkowski metric. The algorithm used for the 190 <sup>191</sup> closest search point does not make any appreciable difference as long as the brute-force search is 192 not used.

SR is a very different ML algorithm compared to KNN and ANN. Rather than learning the 193 194 connections between outputs and inputs in the traditional ML sense, it attempts to find a mathematical expression that correlates the behaviour of the output given the inputs by building a binary 195 tree, in which leaves are constants or inputs and branches are mathematical operations. To find 196 the most appropriate equation, the method starts with naive random guesses and uses evolution 197 and mutations to obtain more accurate equations. In this work, the SR implementation from the 198 gplearn library version 0.4.1 is used<sup>86</sup>. The hyperparameter space for SR is very large, as the mu-199 tation and evolution steps can be changed to allow for more or less variability between different 200 members of the population and between parents and offspring equations. Other hyperparameters 201 control the population size, the number of generations of evolution, the types of functions that can 202 be used to connect the nodes, the parsimony coefficient, which is a measure of the 'complexity' 203 of the final equation, and the metric by which the performance of each member of the population 204 is evaluated. Each hyperparameter needed to be checked individually not only for accuracy but 205 also for variability in obtained equations in different random states and the length of the evolution. 206 After some initial testing, it is found that a population size of 5000, 50 generations, the AARD 207 metric and a parsimony coefficient of 0.3 are the hyperparameters that affect the algorithm the 208 <sup>209</sup> most. The operation set used in this work comprises additions, subtractions, multiplications, di-<sup>210</sup> visions, exponential, square roots of the absolute values and the natural logarithm of the absolute 211 values.

#### 212 III. RESULTS

#### 213 A. Self-diffusion coefficient

# 214 1. Selection of relevant features for the ML methods and conformality of the Mie potential

The correct selection of features is critical in ML. For fluids comprising spherical particles 215 <sup>216</sup> interacting via the Mie potential, the obvious features that can be used are temperature  $T^*$  and density  $\rho^*$  to define the thermodynamic state, and both repulsive n and attractive m exponents to 217 define the intermolecular potential. Neither  $\sigma$  nor  $\varepsilon$  is needed since all the properties are expressed 218 219 in reduced units. However, as discussed in Section II A, it has been demonstrated that Mie potentials with different pairs of exponents (n,m) that lead to the same value of the cohesive parameter 220  $\alpha$  (Equation 2) are conformal and exhibit the same critical points and, potentially, should lead to 221 the same transport properties in the fluid phase. To corroborate this hypothesis, the self-diffusion 222 coefficients obtained from the MD simulations of three triplets of Mie potentials are studied. Here, 223 each triplet has the same value of the cohesive parameter  $\alpha$  corresponding to  $\alpha = 0.899, 0.585,$ 224 and 0.254 but within each set, the repulsive and attractive exponents differ considerably from one another. These sets of potentials have been studied at a subcritical isotherm  $(T^*/T_c^* = 0.95)$  and at 227 a supercritical isotherm  $(T^*/T_c^* = 1.2)$  for a wide range of densities, and the results are presented in Figure 1. Despite the small deviations observed at very high densities near the freezing points, 228 the agreement of the self-diffusion coefficient within a set of potentials with an identical value of 229 the cohesive parameter is remarkable, particularly for densities corresponding to  $\rho^* < 0.7$ , which 230 <sup>231</sup> is to the region in which most of the simulation data has been collected.

The predictive power of the cohesive parameter  $\alpha$  to describe the self-diffusion coefficient of different potentials reaffirms the need to use it as a feature in the ML algorithm training rather than using the individual exponents *n* and *m*. The relation between the cohesive parameter  $\alpha$  and the exponents is non-linear, as shown in Equation 3, hence using the individual exponents introduces a layer of complexity between inputs and outputs, that may result in a lower ability of ML algorithms to predict transport properties.



FIG. 1. MD simulation results of the self-diffusion coefficient  $D^*$  as a function of the density  $\rho^*$  obtained for three triplets of potentials with different cohesive parameter  $\alpha$ . The results for the subcritical isotherm  $T^*/T_c^* = 0.95$  are presented in the main figure, while the results for the supercritical isotherm  $T^*/T_c^* = 1.2$ are shown in the inset.

#### 238 2. k-Nearest Neighbours and Artificial Neural Networks

The training of the ANN and KNN algorithms using the MD results for the self-diffusion coefficient has been performed first according to three regions in the phase diagram, namely the subcritical vapour phase, the subcritical liquid phase and the supercritical fluid phase, and then end the entire set as a whole. As explained in the previous section, the features used in both algorithms are the temperature  $T^*$ , the density  $\rho^*$ , and the cohesive parameter  $\alpha$  and the output is the Chapman-Eskog regularised self-diffusion coefficient  $(D^*/D_0^*)$ .

<sup>245</sup> First, the application of the ANN and KNN algorithms on the vapour phase data set is discussed.

Property	State	KNN		ANN		SR	
		AARD	$R^2$	AARD	$R^2$	AARD	$R^2$
$D^*$	Vapour phase	0.42%	0.9998	0.87%	0.9998	3.5%	0.995
$D^*$	Liquid phase	3.3%	0.988	1.8%	0.998	3.5%	0.992
$D^*$	Supercritical phase	3.4%	0.989	8.4%	0.977	7.7%	0.970
$D^*$	All phases	2.8%	0.9997	6.4%	0.998	30%	0.995
$\eta^*$	Liquid phase	2.8%	0.977	3.3%	0.988	6.3%	0.964

TABLE I. Summary of the AARD and  $R^2$  descriptors of different ML methods applied in this work.

The results are presented in Figure 2(a) in the form of parity plots. It is evident from this Figure that in the vapour phase the ANN algorithm performs very similarly to KNN as seen from the summary of the AARD and  $R^2$  presented in Table I. The AARD and  $R^2$  for the ANN are 0.87% and 0.9998 for the vapour phase, respectively, compared to 0.42% and 0.9998 obtained using KNN. The algorithms differ in the accuracy of the prediction, to which AARD is more sensitive. The fact that KNN has a lower AARD may be explained by the fact that KNN uses interpolation to learn points to predict new points, rather than predicting the values based on inputs. The differences are minor, however, showing a good ability of both methods to predict the self-diffusion coefficient.

For the liquid phase, the algorithms do not predict  $D^*$  as well as for the vapour phase, with all metrics decreasing for both methods. The results are presented in Figure 2(b). The decrease in accuracy of the methods is contributed by an increased variation of the range of  $D^*/D_0^*$  in the liquid phase. Since the magnitude of  $D^*$  in the liquid phase is about two orders of magnitude smaller than in the vapour phase, the values of AARD are larger due to the amplification of the errors. It is observed that  $R^2$  also decreases for the liquid phase, which is likely due to the normalization of  $D^*/D_0^*$  between [-1,1] where any deviations in the prediction of the methods will be amplified due to the increased range of the data used  $(D^*/D_0^* = [0.08 - 0.56]$  for liquid phase compared to  $D^*/D_0^* = [0.59 - 0.77]$  for the vapour phase). Additionally, it is observed that the decrease in accuracy is larger for KNN, particularly in the region of of low values of  $D^*$  and around  $D^* \approx 0.1$ where data points are further away from the main diagonal in the parity plots.

The MD simulation data for the supercritical fluid phase has been collected at specific values of  $T^*/T_c^*$  and  $\rho^*/\rho_c^*$ . While the value of  $T_c^*$  varies greatly with the cohesive parameter  $\alpha$ , the critical density remains mostly constant<sup>87</sup>. Therefore, the ranges of the self-diffusion coefficient



FIG. 2. Parity plots describing the performance of the ANN (red circles) and KNN (blue triangles) on the testing set of the self-diffusion coefficient for three different regions in the phase diagram, as well as for the entire data set as a whole. The results correspond to (a) subcritical vapour, (b) subcritical liquid, (c) supercritical fluid, and (d) all states.  $D^*$  (MD) denotes the self-diffusion coefficients obtained from MD simulations, while  $D^*$  (ML) denotes the predictions using machine learning.

<sup>268</sup> are much more well-defined. The performance of ANN decreases for the supercritical phase with <sup>269</sup> respect to the liquid phase, while KNN performs similarly, as shown Table I. It is worth noting <sup>270</sup> that the performance of the methods fitting  $D^*/D_0^*$  is slightly lower than when trained on  $D^*$  alone <sup>271</sup> only for the supercritical phase (data not shown).

Finally, the application of both ANN and KNN algorithms to describe the entire data set in

<sup>273</sup> the three regions of interest is discussed. Taking the entire data set vastly increases the amount <sup>274</sup> of training data available to the algorithms, while increasing the range of output values as well. <sup>275</sup> The performance of the methods is observed in the parity plot in Figure 2(d), where it can be <sup>276</sup> observed that both KNN and ANN are able to similarly predict the value of  $D^*$  with KNN slightly <sup>277</sup> outperforming the ANN algorithm.

# 278 3. Symbolic Regression

Symbolic regression produces an equation, i.e., a correlation, by applying different mathematical operations to the training data. This methodology produces a good fitting of a mathematical expression, but the drawback is that the algorithm can generate correlations without any physical meaning. Therefore, the use of Chapman-Enskog to normalize the data in the form  $D^*/D_0^*$  allows the obtained correlation to be semi-empirical and the correlations obtained from SR simply quantify the deviation of  $D^*$  with respect to the value of this property for a reference dilute gas of hard spheres.

The correlations obtained from the SR of the vapour, liquid, and supercritical states, as well as 286 for the entire data set are presented in Table II. The performance of these correlations is shown 287 in the parity plots presented in Figure 3, and the summary of the values of AARD and  $R^2$  are 288 presented in Table I. The equation for the self-diffusion coefficient of the vapour phase, Equation 289 10, is the simplest of all models and indicates that  $D^*$  is approximately 65% of the value of  $D_0^*$ , 290 which makes sense since  $D_0^*$  is derived for fluids of infinite dilution. Moreover, the correlation 291 does not include any dependence on the cohesive parameter  $\alpha$ , meaning that the expression is 292 independent of the intermolecular potential. Despite the simplicity, this expression is sufficient to 293 predict the self-diffusion coefficient to great accuracy as observed in Figure 3(a), in which both 294 training and testing data sets lie on top of the diagonal in the parity plot. The AARD for this model 295 is 3.5% and  $R^2 = 0.995$ . The simplicity of the equation is due to the small range in  $D^*/D_0^*$  that is 296 observed in the vapour phase. 297

<sup>298</sup> Contrary to the equation obtained for the vapour phase, the one for the liquid phase, Equation <sup>299</sup> 11, is complex and introduces new additional terms. One important distinction, however, is the <sup>300</sup> appearance of the cohesive parameter  $\alpha$  in the expression suggesting the relevance of the shape <sup>301</sup> of the intermolecular potential in this high-density region and at low temperatures where particle-<sup>302</sup> particle correlations are important. This expression performs equally well when compared to



FIG. 3. Parity plots describing the performance of the equations obtained from symbolic regression (SR) for the description of the self-diffusion coefficient for three different regions in the phase diagram, as well as for the entire data set as a whole. The results correspond to (a) subcritical vapour, (b) subcritical liquid, (c) supercritical fluid, and (d) all states. Training data are shown in red circles while the testing data are shown in blue triangles.  $D^*$  (MD) denotes the self-diffusion coefficients obtained from MD simulations, while  $D^*$  (SR) denotes the predictions using symbolic regression.

<sup>303</sup> the KNN algorithm but underperforms in comparison to the ANN algorithm when considering <sup>304</sup> the performance metrics. The strength of the SR algorithm is its interpretability, as the obtained <sup>305</sup> equation is very simple to implement, whereas the inner working of the ANN and KNN algorithms <sup>306</sup> are 'black boxes'.

TABLE II. Semi-empirical equations obtained from the symbolic regression of the self-diffusion coefficient  $D^*$  and the viscosity  $\eta^*$  at different states.

Property	State	Equation	
$D^*$	Vapour phase	$\frac{D^*}{D_0^*} = 0.649$	(10)
$D^*$	Liquid phase	$\frac{D_{*}^{9}}{D_{0}^{*}} = [T^{*}(1 + \exp(-\alpha) - 0.694] \frac{\exp(-\rho^{*})}{\sqrt{\alpha}}$	(11)
$D^*$	Supercritical phase	$\frac{D^*}{D_0^*} = \sqrt{(0.664 - \rho^{*2})\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}T^*}}$	(12)
$D^*$	All states	$\left \frac{D^*}{D_0^*} = \exp(-\rho^*/T^*)\exp(- 0.273\log(\log(1/\rho^*)) )\right $	(13)
$\eta^*$	Liquid phase	$\frac{\eta_0^{\circ}}{\eta_0^{\circ}} = \frac{\exp{(\rho^*) [\exp{(\rho^*)} + \log(\alpha)]}}{T^* - 0.405}$	(14)
$\eta^*$	Liquid phase	$\eta^* = 0.892 \alpha \rho^* \left( 1 + \frac{\rho^*}{T^* (T^* - 0.381)} \right)$	(15)

The performance of the equation obtained for the supercritical phase is shown in Figure 3(c) and the expression is presented in Equation 12. This expression is relatively simple compared to the equation for the liquid phase. Due to the lack of very high-density state points in the data set, this equation is only valid for  $\rho^* < \sqrt{0.664}$  to ensure that the square root function produces a real value. The lack of high-density state points is also a contributing factor to the absence of any dependence on the cohesive parameter  $\alpha$ . In comparison to the algorithms discussed previously for this data set, SR is outperformed by the KNN algorithm, but exhibiting nearly equivalent performance to ANN.

Finally, the performance of the SR equation obtained for the entire data set can be observed 315 in Figure 3(d) and is given by Equation 13. This expression exhibits a very good value of  $R^2$ , 316 but a poor AARD. While it is clear that the equation is unphysical, it has very good predictive 317 power, having a value of  $R^2$  equivalent to the black box ML methods. Much of the error in this 318 equation comes from the overprediction of low values of  $D^*$  as can be seen in Figure 3(d), which 319 is the location of the self-diffusion coefficients obtained from the liquid phase simulations. As the 320 SR equation for all phases does not take into account the cohesive parameter  $\alpha$  of the potential, 321 the liquid self-diffusion coefficients are not predicted accurately, where the value of the cohesion 322 323 parameter has a larger influence on the diffusion coefficient due to the large proximity of particles <sub>324</sub> and low temperature of the system. Additionally, the liquid phase data only makes 25% of the 325 full data set, which makes the effects of the cohesion parameter more difficult to be captured for the SR algorithm. The lack of accuracy at low self-diffusion coefficients is balanced by the high precision of high-self diffusion coefficients, which are not as susceptible to changes in the cohesive parameter of the potential.

It is also important to note that depending on the value of the initial seed set in the random number generator used in the SR algorithm, there is a larger variability of the expression obtained (except for the vapour phase). The expressions presented in Table II are only a subset of the expressions found by the algorithm.

# 333 B. Shear viscosity

As for the case of the self-diffusion coefficient, the ANN and KNN algorithms, as well as SR, 334 <sup>335</sup> have been applied to represent the shear viscosity  $\eta^*$  of particles interacting *via* the Mie potential. 336 However, only the liquid region is analysed in this work as it is the main region of interest for fluid flow applications. The performance of both ANN and KNN algorithms is shown in Figure 337 4(a). Similar to the case of the self-diffusion coefficients, the ANN exhibits a better performance 338 to predict the shear viscosity of the liquid region with AARD of 3.3% and  $R^2 = 0.988$ . In contrast, the AARD and  $R^2$  for the KNN algorithm are 2.8% and 0.977, respectively. This difference in 340 predicting power between the measurements shows that KNN is more accurate for low values of  $_{342}$   $\eta^*$ , while ANN is more accurate for high values. Interestingly, both methods improve when they <sup>343</sup> are trained using non-normalised data, that is, when the models are train with respect to  $D^*$  instead of trained with respect to  $D^*/D_0^*$ . This enhacement in their performance is shown in Figure 4(b), especially for ANN, with AARD= 2.21% and  $R^2 = 0.996$ . KNN receives a smaller improvement with AARD= 2.6% and  $R^2 = 0.977$ . 346

For the case of the SR applied to the shear viscosity, the performance of the methodology also 348 follows a similar behaviour as in the case of the self-diffusion coefficient. The semi-empirical 349 equation obtained for SR has been obtained by fitting  $\eta^*/\eta_0^*$ , Equation 14, and the results are 350 presented in Figure 5(a) and in Table I. It is clear from these results that the SR performs worse 351 than the KNN and ANN algorithms, in terms of both  $R^2$  and AARD. Furthermore, the equation 352 is complex and has a dependency on the cohesion parameter  $\alpha$ , mirroring the equation obtained 353 for the predictions of the self-diffusion coefficient for the liquid phase. This shows that at high 354 densities there is a more pronounced effect of the exact inter-particle potential and, hence, the 355 requirement for the inclusion of cohesion parameter becomes more apparent. For higher values of



FIG. 4. Parity plot describing the performance of the ANN (red circles) and KNN (blue triangles) on the testing set of the shear viscosity  $\eta^*$  of the liquid phase for (a) normalised and (b) non-normalised (right).  $\eta^*$  (MD) denotes the shear viscosity obtained from MD simulations, while  $\eta^*$  (ML) denotes the predictions using machine learning.

 $\eta$ , it is observed that there is an increase in deviations of the data from the parity line. While this semi-empirical equation performs well, it can be observed in Figure 5(a) that the slope of the data 357 at low values of  $\eta^*$  also deviate from the main diagonal, implying that there are missing factors in 358 the equation. For comparison, the SR algorithm has also been trained with respect to  $\eta^*$  instead 359 of  $\eta^*/\eta_0^*$  to obtain a fully empirical equation, given by Equation 15, for the shear viscosity and 360 the results are presented in Figure 5(b). This equation exhibits an AARD=3.8% and a  $R^2 = 0.987$ , 361 which shows that the empirical model has slightly better performance in both metrics compared to 362 the semi-empirical equation, with the value of  $R^2$  outperforming the value for KNN and equaling 363 the values of ANN. The shape of the points on the fully empirical equation also follows the parity 364 <sup>365</sup> line more closely, especially at low viscosity values.

### **366** C. Application to real fluids

In this section, the application of the ML models to predict the self-diffusion coefficients of real fluids is demonstrated. The selected systems correspond to krypton Kr, methane  $CH_4$  and carbon dioxide  $CO_2$ . These systems have been chosen as they can be represented approximately



FIG. 5. Parity plots describing the performance of the equations obtained from symbolic regression for the description of the shear viscosity  $\eta^*$  for the liquid phase. The results correspond to (a) the semi-empirical equation (Equation 14) and (b) the empirical equation (Equation 15). Training data are shown in red circles while testing data are shown in blue triangles.  $\eta^*$  (MD) denotes the shear viscosity obtained from MD simulations, while  $\eta^*$  (SR) denotes the predictions using symbolic regression.

<sup>370</sup> by a single coarse-grained sphere and exhibit a wide variety of intermolecular interactions that the <sup>371</sup> Mie potential can capture. The representation of  $CO_2$  as a single coarse-grained sphere has been <sup>372</sup> previously demonstrated<sup>71</sup> and is used in this work. To find the best Mie potential parameters that <sup>373</sup> describe the other fluids (Kr, CH<sub>4</sub>), the highly accurate SAFT-VR Mie EoS is used<sup>9</sup>. This equation <sup>374</sup> is based on a high-order Barker and Henderson perturbation theory and is able to represent with <sup>375</sup> high accuracy the vapour-liquid equilibria, including an excellent representation of the critical <sup>376</sup> region.

The methodology to predict the self-diffusion coefficients of these systems is as follows. First, are experimental vapour-liquid equilibria and vapour pressures have been obtained from the NIST Chemistry WebBook<sup>88</sup> and fitted to the SAFT-VR Mie EoS to find the intermolecular parameters of the Mie potential, i.e.  $\sigma$ ,  $\varepsilon$ , n and m, that best represent the vapour and liquid saturation densities, as well as the vapour pressure. Using the calculated cohesive parameter  $\alpha$  from the optimized exponents, the ML algorithms optimized for all the fluid regions in the phase diagram are deployed to predict the self-diffusion coefficient at any temperature and density. Finally,

System	$arepsilon/(k_{ m B}/{ m K})$	$\sigma/{ m \AA}$	n	т	α
Kr	176.34	3.663	14.28	5.98	0.795
CH <sub>4</sub>	160.53	3.754	14.15	5.98	0.800
CO <sub>2</sub>	353.55	3.741	23.0	6.66	0.358

TABLE III. Results for the optimized Mie intermolecular parameters  $\varepsilon$ ,  $\sigma$ , *n* and *m* obtained using the SAFT-VR Mie EoS<sup>9</sup>. The cohesive parameter  $\alpha$  is obtained from Equation 2.

the optimized values of  $\sigma$  and  $\varepsilon$  are used to convert from reduced units to real units and the results are compared with experimental data collected recently by Allers *et al.*<sup>63</sup>.

The optimized Mie intermolecular parameters obtained from the fitting of the SAFT-RV EoS, 386 and the values used for CO<sub>2</sub> from Avendaño et al.<sup>71</sup>, are presented in Table III, and the corre-387 sponding prediction of the saturated vapour and liquid densities are shown in Figures 6(a,c,e) for 388 Kr, CH<sub>4</sub>, and CO<sub>2</sub>, respectively. As can be observed in these Figures, the SAFT-VR Mie provides 389 an excellent representation of the saturated densities when compared to the experimental results 390 reported in NIST<sup>88</sup>. Using the parameters reported in Table III, the self-diffusion coefficients for 391 the three substances are predicted using, for example, the optimized ANN model and can be com-392 pared with available experimental data<sup>63</sup>. The results of this comparison are presented in the parity 393 <sup>394</sup> plots shown in Figures 6(b,d,f) for Kr, CH<sub>4</sub>, and CO<sub>2</sub>, respectively. The calculated metrics AARD  $_{395}$  and  $R^2$  for the three substances are also reported in Table IV. The predictions using KNN and SR are also presented in the SI. 396

For KNN and ANN the predictions are equivalent for all three fluids. The predictions are best for CO<sub>2</sub> in both metrics. When studying the parity plots presented in Figure 6, the parity plot of CO<sub>2</sub> looks the most accurate over the range of values studied, while for CH<sub>4</sub> and Kr there are strong deviations at low values of  $D^*$ . These deviations may be attributed directly to the lock of training data in very dense liquids, where the intermolecular forces play a larger role. Additionally, the coarse-graining applied to the fluid particles treats them as perfect spheres. For example., CO<sub>2</sub> is neither spherical nor can be represented by simple dispersion forces due to the strong quadrupolar moments of the molecule. The same effect has been reported by Aimoli *et* and the deviations at low values of  $D^*$  are more pronounced in the SR predictions, where the cohesion are deviations at low values of  $D^*$  are more pronounced in the SR predictions, where the cohesion are strong entirely.



FIG. 6. Results for the vapour-liquid equilibria and self-diffusion coefficients of (a,b) krypton Kr, (c,d) methane CH<sub>4</sub>, and (e,f) carbon dioxide CO<sub>2</sub>. In figures (a, c, d), the blue circles correspond to the experimental results obtained from NIST<sup>88</sup> while the dashed curves are the predictions using the SAFT-VR Mie Eos<sup>9</sup> using the parameters reported in Table III. The parity plots shown in Figures (b,d,f) show the comparison of the prediction of the ANN developed in this work with the experimental results collected by Allers *et al.*<sup>63</sup>.

	KN	KNN		IN	SR	
System	AARD	$R^2$	AARD	$R^2$	AARD	$R^2$
Kr	26.6%	0.970	23.4%	0.968	45.8%	0.906
CH <sub>4</sub>	24.7%	0.970	24.9%	0.971	40.6%	0.902
CO <sub>2</sub>	22.9%	0.972	22.7%	0.977	24.1%	0.944

TABLE IV. The results for the metrics AARD and  $R^2$  obtained from the prediction of the self-diffusion coefficient using the ML methods optimized for all states.

## 408 IV. CONCLUSION

In summary, the ability of three different ML algorithms to predict transport properties of 409 <sup>410</sup> spheres interacting via the Mie potential has been investigated. The main transport property studied in this work is the self-diffusion coefficient, which has been obtained from the calculations 411 of the mean-squared displacement from MD simulations. It has been found that KNN and ANN 412 <sup>413</sup> perform equivalently over all the fluid phases considered, with KNN having slightly better perfor-<sup>414</sup> mance in general, especially in terms of AARD. This is attributed to the interpolation used in the  $_{415}$  KNN method, which allows for a more accurate prediction of small  $D^*$  values. The region studied in the supercritical regime was trained on a biased data set, resulting in reduced performance 416 from all methods employed. The SR model performs slightly worse, in general, than the methods discussed previously. The worst performance from SR is the high AARD in the all-phase data set, where the lack of the cohesion parameter in the SR expression leads to reduced performance in the low  $D^*$  region. Additionally, for all the ML methods used, viscosity was better predicted when 420 <sup>421</sup> training without the use of  $\eta_0$ .

The equations obtained from applying the SR algorithm have shown an unexpected result, where the cohesive parameter, which defines the potential's fluid phase diagram, is absent for all the fluid phase regions except for the liquid phase. The prediction of the shear viscosity has reaffirmed the comparisons for the performance of the algorithms, as the same trends have been observed. To increase the generalization and applicability of the ML models, the all-phase models have been applied to predict the self-diffusion coefficients of krypton, methane and carbon dioxide. To that end, the Mie potential parameters for each fluid have been calculated using SAFT-VR Mie equation of state using available vapour-liquid experimental data. These parameters have been <sup>430</sup> used along with the previously presented models to predict the self-diffusion coefficient of the <sup>431</sup> three selected systems. While a good overall agreement has been observed, the results have shown <sup>432</sup> some deviations that are attributed to the lack of training data at very high liquid density regime <sup>433</sup> as well as the simplicity of single-sphere coarse-grained representation.

## 434 V. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The supplementary information contains a discussion on the uncertainties in the calculation of the transport properties, heat maps representing the accuracy of the models in the phase space, prediction of self-diffusion coefficients of Lennard-Jones particles from published literature, and the predicted results of the self-diffusion coefficient for Kr, CH<sub>4</sub>, and CO<sub>2</sub> using the three ML models.

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