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Guaiacol and its mixtures: new data and predictive models

Part 1: Phase equilibrium

Pereira, C.G.^{1,2*}, Féjean C.¹, Betoulle S.¹, Ferrando N.¹, Lugo, R.¹, Hemptinne, J.C.¹, Mougin, P.¹

¹IFP Energies nouvelles, 1 - 4 avenue de Bois-Préau, 92852 Rueil-Malmaison, France

²UFRN- Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Natal, Brazil

ABSTRACT

In the present work, new experimental data of guaiacol mixture with methane were investigated. The results have been evaluated using several thermodynamic approaches. Predictive calculations using the GC-PPC-SAFT (Group Contribution-Polar Perturbed Chain-Statistical Associating Fluid Theory) equation of state and Molecular Simulation using the AUA4 force field were performed. Data from literature for the binary systems of guaiacol with CO₂, ethanol, octanol, acetone, butyl acetate and water were used to evaluate the thermodynamic models. The effect of the association scheme is discussed at length. Predictive phase equilibrium for systems containing small toxic compounds, such as hydrogen, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide and ammonia were also performed. In GC-PPC-SAFT, two configurations of associative sites for guaiacol were considered. The predicted values showed to be consistent with new experimental data. The effect of conformational structure of guaiacol on phase equilibria was detected.

Keywords: phase equilibria, guaiacol, GC-PPC-SAFT, molecular simulation

1. INTRODUCTION

The increase in the energy demand coupled with the gradual depletion of fossil fuels and the political and environmental requirements have motivated the search of new energy sources. Recently, the biomass conversion into hydrocarbon fuels has gained special attention due to its attractive characteristics in terms of availability and sustainability.

The use of bioresources in the production of energy and chemicals involves major environmental, economic and geostrategic implications. Indeed, creating new opportunities for bio-products in the field of energy, chemicals and materials should lead to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The general objective behind this strategy is to ensure the protection of human beings and their environment while ensuring also the continuity of the economic activities with a reduced dependence on fossil energies. Unlike fossil fuels, bioresources are renewable, widely available and better distributed throughout the world, and their valorisation will certainly have a very positive impact at the regional level on the preservation of jobs and development of rural areas [1].

Chemical and petrochemical industries are now aiming at developing new green chemistry-based processes [2], [3], and lignocellulosic biomass (LCB) is called to play a major role as an alternative raw material. Indeed, the lignocellulosic material may be conditioned to obtain already “functionalised” molecules for specific applications, unlike hydrocarbons that require additional processing steps for the synthesis of specific chemicals.

The mixtures associated with the conversion of LCB include a large number of oxygenated molecules belonging to different families produced through the decomposition of the main constituents of LCB: cellulose, hemicellulose (polymers of sugars) and lignin (phenolic-derivatives polymers). The fast pyrolysis of LCB, for instance, produces solid, liquid (bio-oil) and gaseous fractions, in which the bio-oil is a source of several attractive compounds, including lighter components from different chemical families such as carboxylic acids, ethers or ketones and heavier compounds such as phenolic or furan derivatives. Recent studies have used guaiacol (or 2-methoxyphenol) as a model compound of bio-oil due to its molecular structure: it contains two oxygen-containing functional groups (phenolic -OH- and methoxy -OCH₃- groups) that facilitate its repolymerization [4]-[6].

The processing and refining of these products is needed to improve their quality and to promote their use as a fuel. Several treatments can be considered: cracking, hydrocracking, decarbonylation, decarboxylation, hydrodeoxygenation, catalytic hydrotreatment, hydrogenation, others. However, in order to carry out studies on the technological and economic potential of LCB conversion process, it is necessary to develop predictive thermodynamic models with strong theoretical basis able to deal with multifunctional molecules where complex polar and associating interactions take place.

There have been several previous studies aiming at modelling systems with phenol derivatives. Lee et al [7] evaluated the phase equilibria of CO₂ + guaiacol and the data was correlated by different equations of state (EOS): the Soave–Redlich–Kwong, the Peng–

Robinson, and the Patel–Teja EOS with the van der Waals mixing rules. They all require two binary interaction parameters for a good modeling and can therefore not be called predictive. Hwang *et al.* [8] evaluated the phase equilibria of guaiacol + 1,2-dimethoxybenzene and guaiacol+ diphenylmethane with several versions of the UNIFAC. They were unable to predict the phase behavior of these systems, indicating that the interaction parameters of AC–OCH₃ binaries had to be re-evaluated. On the other hand, good data correlation were obtained using the Wilson, the NRTL, and the UNIQUAC models (not predictive). Espinosa *et al.* [9] applied the Group Contribution Associating Equation of State (GCA-EoS) to predict the phase equilibria of different phenol derivative systems; however, this work did not involve the mixtures evaluated here.

The GC-PPC-SAFT EoS has been used with some success on various mixtures of oxygenated compounds [10]. The objective of this study is to evaluate the GC-PPC-SAFT model and molecular simulations using the AUA4 force field, to predict the phase equilibria of systems with guaiacol. The behavior of its mixtures with associative, non- associative, polar and apolar compounds was evaluated. Phase equilibria of mixtures of guaiacol with methane, carbon dioxide, ethanol, octanol, water, acetone, butyl acetate, n-hexadecane and other light components such as H₂, CO, H₂S and NH₃ were evaluated in the present work. In order to evaluate the complexity of guaiacol, an analysis of its structure was also performed.

2. Experimental Section

2.1. Materials

For carrying out the phase equilibrium experiments, the following reagents were used: methane and carbon dioxide from Air Liquide (purity $\geq 99.998\%$), and guaiacol from SAFC (purity $\geq 98\%$), and guaiacol from Sigma Aldrich (purity $\geq 99.998\%$).

2.2. Apparatus and procedure

Experimental measurements of methane + guaiacol system at 443.15 K were performed in an equilibrium cell with a variable volume at constant pressure. The procedure and details of the equipment and its validation are provided in Pereira *et al.* [11].

3. Models used

In this work, the predictions of phase envelope were done using molecular-based GC-PPC-SAFT Equation of State as well as Monte Carlo Molecular Simulation with the AUA4 force field.

3.1 GC-PPC-SAFT

The GC-PC-SAFT EoS was originally proposed by Tamouza et al. [12] to model vapor–liquid equilibria of non-ideal mixtures. Later, Nguyen Huynh et al. [13] extended the application of this model to polar-chain containing mixtures (the so-called PPC-SAFT EoS) and applied it successfully to model the phase equilibrium behavior of different kind of chemical series, including alcohols, alkyl-benzenes, esters, ethers, ketones, aldehydes [14-16] and small gas-containing systems [15, 17, 18].

The GC-PPC-SAFT (Group Contribution- Polar Perturbed- Chain Statistical Associating Fluid Theory) Equation of State is a predictive model developed from the polar PC-SAFT equation proposed by Gross and Sadowski [19-21], coupled to a group contribution method (CG). It is expressed as a sum of Helmholtz energy contributions:

$$A^{res} = (mA^{hs} + A^{chain}) + A^{disp} + A^{assoc} + A^{multi-polar}, \quad (1)$$

where the first four terms relate to the non-polar interactions and follow the theory developed by Gross and Sadowski, the last incorporate the contribution of polar interactions that was obtained by extending the Gubbins and Twu [22] theory to chain molecules using the so-called “segment approach” of Jog & Chapman [23], [24]. The details for the description of these terms can be found in the original papers.

3.1.1 Pure- Components parameters

In GC-PPC-SAFT, the segment parameters (ε and σ) and the chain parameter m of the molecule are calculated from group contribution parameters ε_k , σ_k and R_k using the following relations inspired by the Lorentz-Berthelot combining rules [12], [25]:

$$\varepsilon = \sum_{k=1}^{n_{groups}} n_k \sqrt{\prod_{k=1}^{n_{groups}} \varepsilon_k^{n_k}} \quad (2)$$

$$\sigma = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{n_{groups}} n_k \sigma_k}{\sum_{k=1}^{n_{groups}} n_k} \quad (3)$$

$$m = \sum_{k=1}^{n_{groups}} n_k R_k \quad (4)$$

where n_k is the number of groups k in the molecule that is made of n_{groups} different groups.

In the case of polar compounds (water, aromatic compounds, alkanols, ...) additional parameters shall be considered: for dipolar compounds (water, alkanols), the dipole moment μ and dipole fraction ($x_p^{\mu} . m$), and for quadrupolar compounds (aromatic hydrocarbons), the quadrupole moment Q and its corresponding quadrupolar fraction ($x_p^Q . m$). These parameters are only relevant to polar and quadrupolar groups.

Finally, association interactions are considered using a specific term that requires additional information and parameters: an association scheme and a self-association energy (ε^{AB}) and volume (κ^{AB}). Self-association parameters are required for water and alkanols, and more generally, for all molecules containing both electron-donor and electron-acceptor sites. All the pure compounds parameters for methane, carbon dioxide, ethanol, octanol, water and small molecules (H_2 , H_2S , NH_3 , CO) were already determined in previous works, by the simultaneous regression of vapor pressure and pure saturated liquid density. These parameters are presented in Table 1.

For octanol and guaiacol, the segment parameters were calculated using group contributions using the equations (2) – (4). The group parameters defined in Table 2 were used.

(Insert Tables 1 and 2)

3.1.2. Mixture parameters

For mixtures containing compounds of different structures and polarities, combining rules must be defined. To improve the reproduction, two interaction parameters can be considered: dispersive binary interactions parameters and cross-association parameters.

- *Dispersive Binary Interactions Parameters*: PC-SAFT EoS can be applied to mixtures using the van der Waals one-fluid model and the modified Lorentz-Berthelot mixing rules, through the potential parameters ε_{ij} and σ_{ij} between segments of molecules i and j .

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = (1 - k_{ij}) \sqrt{\varepsilon_{ii} \varepsilon_{jj}} \quad (5)$$

$$\sigma_{ij} = \left(\frac{\sigma_{ii} + \sigma_{jj}}{2} \right) \quad (6)$$

In order to keep the predictive characteristic of the GC-PPC-SAFT model, a predictive k_{ij} was here considered (Eq 7, [15]) for all systems with guaiacol.

$$1 - k_{ij} = \frac{2\sqrt{J_i J_j}}{J_i + J_j} \quad (7)$$

where J_i is the pseudo-ionization energy of the molecule i .

- *Association Interactions Parameters*: PC-SAFT EoS can be applied to mixtures using

The combination rule for the cross-association parameters is as follows:

$$\varepsilon^{A_\alpha B_\beta} = \frac{\varepsilon^{A_\alpha} + \varepsilon^{B_\beta}}{2} \quad (8)$$

$$\kappa^{A_\alpha B_\beta} = \sqrt{\kappa^{A_\alpha} \kappa^{B_\beta}} \quad (9)$$

They were used without any correction in this work. Note the use of the indices α and β rather than i and j . This is to clearly label that the parameters refer to the groups α and β

rather than to compounds. The small molecules of Table 1 can be considered single group molecules.

3.2 Molecular Simulation

To simulate CH₄, CO₂, ethanol, H₂, CO, H₂S and NH₃, the molecular models used were those of Möller et al. [34], Harris and Young [35], Darkrim et al. [36], Perez-Pellitero et al. [37], Kristof and Liszi [38] and Eckl et al. [39], respectively. Details of these force fields are given in Table 3.

(Insert Table 3)

To simulate guaiacol, the AUA4 force field was used. To take advantage of the transferability feature of this force field, Lennard-Jones parameters and electrostatic charges distribution were directly taken from the parameterization of alkanes [40], aromatics [41], alcohols [42] and ethers [43]. For intramolecular energy calculation, united-atoms separated by more than 3 bonds interact with a Lennard-Jones potential with the same parameters as was used for intermolecular energy calculation. Intramolecular electrostatic energy was computed using the dipole-dipole methodology introduced by Ferrando et al. [42]. Two dipoles were introduced in the guaiacol molecule: the first one was defined by the 3 electrostatic charges of the ether function, and the second one by the 3 electrostatic charges of the alcohol function. A charge belonging to a given dipole interact with all the charges of the second dipole through the Coulomb's law. Bonded and non-bonded parameters of this force field are summarized in Tables 4 and 5, respectively.

(Insert Tables 4 and 5)

The choice of a mixing rule for cross-interactions between a center of force belonging to a small gas molecule and a center of force belonging to guaiacol was not obvious. From a previous study [11], it was shown that the cross-interaction between a center of force of a phenolic compound and a center of force of the various gases studied was better represented using the classical Lorentz-Berthelot rules, except for CH₄ which was better represented with the Kong rules [44]. Thus, in this work either of them was adopted according to the gas molecule considered .

Pure guaiacol was simulated in the NVT Gibbs Ensemble [45]. In this ensemble, the two phases in equilibrium were introduced in two separate boxes without an explicit interface. When employed to study pure component equilibrium, this ensemble is applied at constant total volume of the two phases in order to respect the phase rule, the temperature and the total number of molecules being also imposed. A total number of 300 molecules was used. The average properties were computed during a production run lasting for 50 million Monte Carlo steps, one step corresponding to a single Monte Carlo move. Before each production run, a preliminary run lasting for 30 to 70 million Monte Carlo steps was carried out to achieve equilibrium. In the case of Lennard-Jones interactions, a spherical cut-off equal to half of the simulation box was used while the classical tail correction was employed [46]. For long-range electrostatic energy, the Ewald summation technique was used, with a number of reciprocal vectors k equal to 7 in all three space directions and a Gaussian width α^{red} equal to 2 in reduced units. The different Monte Carlo moves and their corresponding attempt probabilities used during the simulations were molecular translation (20%), molecular rotation (20%), regrowth with configurational bias [47] (20%), transfer of a molecule between boxes with pre-insertion bias [48] (39.5%), and volume change (0.5%). The amplitude of translations, rigid rotations and volume changes was adjusted during the simulation to achieve an acceptance ratio of 40% for these moves. The simulations were carried out using the GIBBS software [49] jointly developed by IFP Energies nouvelles and the Laboratoire de Chimie Physique (CNRS-Université Paris-Sud). Note that vapor pressure was calculated using the Virial equation in the vapor phase, and the molar vaporization enthalpy h^{vap} with the following relationship:

$$h^{vap} = N_a \left(\frac{\langle U^{vap} \rangle}{\langle N^{vap} \rangle} - \frac{\langle U^{liq} \rangle}{\langle N^{liq} \rangle} + P^{vap} \left(\frac{\langle V^{vap} \rangle}{\langle N^{vap} \rangle} - \frac{\langle V^{liq} \rangle}{\langle N^{liq} \rangle} \right) \right) \quad (8)$$

where N_a is the Avogadro number, P^{vap} the pressure calculated in the vapor phase, and $\langle U^i \rangle$, $\langle N^i \rangle$ and $\langle V^i \rangle$ the average potential energy, total number of molecules and volume of phase i , respectively.

The simulations of binary mixtures gas + guaiacol were carried out in the NPT Gibbs Ensemble [50]. A total number of 700 molecules was used. The equilibrium run lasted for 50 to 200 million Monte Carlo steps, according to the temperature simulated (the lowest

temperatures requiring a longer equilibrium step). The production run lasted for 50 to 100 million Monte Carlo steps. Other simulation parameters were identical to those previously described for pure compound simulations.

4. Results and parameterization

4.1. Experimental Results

For the system methane + guaiacol there are no experimental data from literature. Thus, measurements were carried out within this work (see Table 6), and the results are compared with models in section 5.3 below.

(Insert Table 6)

4.2. Molecular Description

Several researchers debate on the strong inter and intramolecular HBs of phenolic compounds such as with guaiacol (2-methoxyphenol) [51]-[57]. This is because HBs affect the total enthalpy of specific interactions between solute and solvent, and then their physical behavior.

It is known also that pure guaiacol can actually exist as a mixture of two [52] or even four [56] conformational isomers (see Figure 1). The formation of intramolecular HBs has a pronounced effect on the molecular structure and properties of molecules. However, in infinite dilution solutions, practically all molecules form intramolecular HB [56].

(Insert Figure 1)

According to Heer *et al.* [57] phenols are known to form intermolecular hydrogen bonds that are able to have hydrogen-bond-accepting properties. Nevertheless, when they present an ortho methoxy group, they may create intramolecular hydrogen bonds as well, that are not linear. Two possibilities of conformers were evaluated considering the lowest energy conformations: one with an intramolecular hydrogen-bond and another with no hydrogen-bond. In both cases, the hydroxyl and the methoxy group are in the plane of the phenyl ring. The enthalpy difference between the two conformations, 4.4 kcal/mol, was defined as the intramolecular hydrogen-bond enthalpy.

Varfolomeev *et al.* [52] presented a wide evaluation on thermodynamic properties of methoxyphenols (2-methoxyphenol, 3-methoxyphenol, 4-methoxyphenol, 1,2 dimethoxybenzene, 1,3 dimethoxybenzene, 1,4 dimethoxybenzene) including standard molar enthalpies of formation, vapor pressure, vaporization enthalpies, sublimation enthalpies, and fusion enthalpies, that were used for the evaluation of inter- and intramolecular HBs of these compounds. The studies also involved thermochemical, Fourier transform infrared (FTIR)-spectroscopy and quantum-chemical studies of methoxyphenols and its HBs. According to these authors, 2-methoxyphenol presented the most negative enthalpy of formation (- 247.3 kJ/mol, i.e. 7.5 kJ/mol lower than for 3-methoxyphenol), the lowest enthalpy of vaporization (50-60.4 kJ/mol, i.e. 8-10 kJ/mol less than for 4- methoxyphenol), and enthalpy of sublimation (58.9-62.9 kJ/mol, i.e. 8-11 kJ/mol less than for 4-methoxyphenol). The reason for these differences is the intramolecular hydrogen bond observed in 2-methoxyphenol. Several experiments were performed with the different isomers and the authors demonstrated the presence of strong intramolecular HB in 2- methoxyphenol. They also evaluated the strength of the HBs in the different conformations. The difference in energy of the conformers represents the energy of intramolecular HBs. This shows the complexity observed when studying systems with 2- methoxyphenol (guaiacol).

In order to better understand this effect, the liquid phase structure of pure guaiacol was investigated using molecular simulation. A Monte Carlo simulation of pure guaiacol was carried out in the monophasic NPT ensemble at 323 K, 0.1 MPa, and the equilibrated configurations were used to analyze hydrogen bond formation in the system. Figure 2 shows the intermolecular radial distribution function (rdf) between two hydroxyl oxygen atoms (noted O(H)), and between an ether oxygen atom (noted O) and a hydroxyl oxygen atom.

(Insert Figure 2)

The O(H)-O(H) rdf clearly exhibits a peak located at 3 Å which reveals the existence of an intermolecular hydrogen bond network in the system. It is interesting to see that the O(H)-O rdf does not exhibit such a peak. In other words, the hydroxyl hydrogen atom forms hydrogen bond only with the hydroxyl oxygen atom and not with the ether oxygen atom. This can be explained by the fact that the electrostatic partial charge of the ether oxygen is lower than the charge of the hydroxyl oxygen. A commonly used geometric criterion to define the presence of a hydrogen bond is the oxygen-oxygen distance that must range between the beginning of the rdf (2.5 Å) and the first local minimum (3.5 Å), and simultaneously the

O(H)-H--O(H) angle that must range between 140 and 180° [58],[59],[42]. With these geometric criteria, we found a monomer fraction of 0.79 (fraction of molecules not involved in a hydrogen bond) and an average number of hydrogen bond per molecule of 0.23. This is considerably lower than the values obtained for phenol with the same force field (average number of hydrogen bond of 1.95 and a monomer fraction close to 0 at room temperature) [42]. This phenomenon could be explained by analyzing intramolecular radial distribution functions. Figure 3 shows the intermolecular distance histogram between the ether oxygen atom O and the hydroxyl hydrogen H atom.

(Insert Figure 3)

It can be seen that all the O-H distances range from 2.1 to 2.4 Å. That means that all guaiacol molecules in the bulk are in *anti-syn* conformation as defined in Figure 1. Such a proximity of the ether oxygen atom and the hydrogen atom can result in steric hindrance, which could explain the difficulty to form intermolecular hydrogen bond compared to phenol for example. Based on this analysis, different conformational schemes of association can be used, and two of them were considered on the GC-PPC-SAFT predictions to be evaluated in this study.

4.3 Guaiacol pure- Components parameters

Auger [33] has investigated this compound with the GC-PPC-SAFT model, but it appears that the behavior depends strongly on the association scheme that is selected. The association term in the model cannot describe explicitly the intra-molecular bonds. These can only be taken into account by the fact that they des-activate possible bond-formation sites. This is the approach considered here. Figure 2 shows the groups used: 1(OH); 4(CH_aro); 2(C_aro); 1(-O-); 1(CH₃); 1(aromatic ring). The parameters proposed by this author are given in Table 2. The association scheme is that which is shown as scheme 2 in Figure 4. The global deviation using this parameterization is 18.9% on vapor pressure and 5.37% on molar volumes. Using a predictive approach, we can also try to compute the vapor pressure of guaiacol using the published parameters by Nguyen-Huynh et al [10], also provided in Table 2. In this case, the average deviation on vapor pressure is 23% (2.5% on volume). In this work, we didn't consider this to be accurate enough and tried to improve by refitting some parameters.

As will be seen below, results are very sensitive to the association scheme. For this reason, two association schemes were considered in this work: i) *Scheme 1* with 3 associating sites, one positive and one negative on the group (OH) and one negative on the (O) of the ether function (notice that this scheme implicitly takes into account the steric hindrance effect of intramolecular association, i.e. less associating sites in the molecule); and ii) *Scheme 2* with 6 associating sites, one positive and two negative on the group (OH), two negative on the group (O) of the ether function and one negative on the aromatic ring. The two schemes are represented in Figure 4.

(Insert Figure 4)

In order to improve the predictions, the association parameters as well as chain length contribution of the OH and the O groups were regressed to fit pure compound data (vapor pressure and liquid volume). The predicted values were compared with experimental data from literature (DIPPR validated [60]), in terms of vapor pressure, liquid volume and enthalpy of vaporization for the pure compound, and also vapor-liquid equilibrium (VLE) for the system CO₂ + guaiacol [7]. Table 7 presents these parameters adjusted considering the vapor pressure and density of guaiacol.

(Insert Table 7)

All other group parameters originate from Table 2, including those of the aromatic ring. Not unexpectedly, the larger the number of sites, the lower the values of the association parameters.

With these parameters, the vapor pressure, liquid volume and vaporization enthalpy of guaiacol were calculated accurately using GC-PPC-SAFT. Figures 5, 6 and 7 shows the deviations between the predicted values (GC-PPC-SAFT and molecular simulation) and experimental data [60]. Table 8 presents the values obtained by Molecular Simulation, and Table 9 presents the deviations for each model. It is observed that for the pure compound, the two approaches (MS and GC-PPC-SAFT) yield rather low deviations. The schemes 1 and 2 provided almost identical results: in fact, almost no difference is observed between the pure component results of the two association schemes. As will be seen later, the differences appear for the mixtures with hydrogen-bonding compounds.

(Insert Tables 8 and 9)

(Insert Figures 5, 6 and 7)

Small deviations were also observed in molecular simulation predictions: < 5% for vapour pressure and vaporization enthalpy and only 1.3% in terms of liquid volume deviations.

5. Discussion: mixtures computations

The difficulty to work with guaiacol is related to its molecular structure and strong and complex interactions (inter- and intramolecular hydrogen bonds - HBs), which can occur in antagonistic manner: aiding or opposing each other [51]-[52] (more details are discussed in section 4.2). We will investigate systems that could help us understand the phenomena at hand. Therefore, we shall focus on systems with water (extremely HB), with ethanol and n-octanol (moderately HB), acetone and, butyl acetate (only cross HB), n-hexadecane (no HB). We shall also have a look at some gases as methane and CO₂. At the end, we shall also look at some other systems for which no data exist.

For the predictions of phase equilibria of guaiacol systems with GC-PPC-SAFT, the predictive binary interaction parameters (k_{ij}) were used (eq. 7). For that, the pseudo-ionization energy of each component (J_i) was considered and applied in Eq. (3). The pseudo-ionization energy of guaiacol (7.76) was assumed to be equal to the pseudo-ionization energy of benzene (i.e. not computed from group contributions). For the other components, the pseudo-ionization energies from literature [15], [17], [18], [27], [28] were used. For ammonia, it was found in a previous work that $J_{\text{NH}_3} = 0$ [11], [1], which means that k_{ij} for the system NH₃ + guaiacol is zero.

5.1. Systems with water and hexadecane

In a first instance, we can evaluate the behavior of the model on binary systems with water and with n-hexadecane. Interestingly, both systems guaiacol + water (Figures 8 and 9) and guaiacol + n-hexadecane (Figure 10) show liquid-liquid phase splits.

(Insert Figures 8 and 9)

Figures 8 and 9 both show the very nice behavior of scheme 1 for computing the water + guaiacol phase diagram. The average deviations on water concentration in the organic phase is 7%, while that of guaiacol on the aqueous phase is 29%. On the other hand, scheme 2 is unable to describe the liquid-liquid phase split, and the bubble pressure is clearly underestimated.

The reason for the strong difference in behavior between the two association schemes is most probably related to the large number of possible cross-associations that are offered by scheme 2. The more cross-association, the better the solubility behavior.

On the opposite extreme, it is possible to observe a liquid-liquid equilibrium between a fully non-associating alkane, n-hexadecane, and guaiacol. As observed in Figure 10, here both association schemes provide identical, quite reasonable results. Please note that these calculations are fully predictive, and that no SAFT model is capable of describing correctly liquid-liquid critical phenomena. We therefore focus on the quality of the phase composition away from the critical end point.

(Insert Figure 10)

5.2. Systems with moderately hydrogen bonding systems

Here we investigate the case of guaiacol with alcohols: ethanol and n-octanol, and with acetates or esters: acetone and butyl acetate.

The results were different for systems containing alcohol. Figures 11 and 12 show the phase envelopes for the systems ethanol + guaiacol and octanol + guaiacol with predictions using GC-PPC-SAFT at different temperatures. For these systems, the predictions using *Scheme 1* provided systematically better results.

(Insert Figure 11)

For the system ethanol + guaiacol (Figure 11), a deviation of 2.5% (disregarding data at 1.9×10^{-3} MPa) was observed for the predicted values obtained when the *Scheme 1* was

used in GC-PPC-SAFT. The *Scheme 2* tends to overestimate the solubility of ethanol in guaiacol (~ 7%). This overestimation was also observed for the system octanol + guaiacol. This phenomenon, which corresponds to an underestimation of the bubble pressure, can easily be explained by stronger cross-association compared to that in scheme 1. A GC description of ethanol proposed by [60] was also evaluated, but it did not provide any further improvement with respect to the molecular description used to obtain Figure 11.

(Insert Figure 12)

The acetone + guaiacol system (Figure 13) is peculiar in the sense that it shows a slightly negative deviation from ideality: the bubble pressure data are slightly smaller than the straight line connecting the pure component vapor pressures. Please note that guaiacol is solid at 290.15K, but an extrapolation of the DIPPR vapor pressure correlation provides the low value of 6.3Pa; also, a 6.5% overestimation of the acetone vapor pressure by GC-PPC-SAFT is observed, which happens to be the largest deviation of the full temperature range. This deviation is quite acceptable for a predictive model. Considering that cross-association generally yields such negative deviations from ideality, it is quite unexpected that the guaiacol association scheme with the most hydrogen-bonding sites yields a larger vapor pressure. Yet, we should recognize that the behavior of such systems is driven by a balance between self-association (which will yield positive deviation from ideality) and cross-association (that yields negative deviation). In addition, we can also observe that both guaiacol association schemes have only one proton-donor, and that acetone has one proton acceptor site. Hence, increasing the number of proton acceptor sites on the guaiacol results in an increase of self-association without increasing the cross-association. This clearly explains why the scheme 2 leads to a more positive (or less negative) deviation from ideality compared to scheme 1.

We observe again that scheme 1 is closer to the true behavior. If we want to improve the representation of such a system, the cross-association parameters must probably be adjusted.

(Insert Figure 13)

In the guaiacol + butyl-acetate system that is shown in Figure 14, it is impossible to visualize whether a negative or a positive deviation from ideality exists. Yet, the same conclusion as for the acetone + guaiacol mixture can be drawn.

(Insert Figure 14)

5.3. Systems with gases

The mixtures with methane or CO₂ are shown in the Figures 15 and 16. For methane, we can observe the same phenomenon as with hexadecane: both schemes provide identical results.

(Insert Figure 15)

An example for the phase envelopes for the CO₂ + guaiacol system using GC-PPC-SAFT and molecular simulations are presented in Figures 10. The same phenomenon is observed as with acetone, that is that scheme 2, with a large number of sites, results in larger bubble pressures (underestimation of solubilities). This can be explained in the same way as for acetone: the more guaiacol can self-associate (scheme 2), the larger its tendency to feature positive deviations from ideality. This is why the bubble pressures are larger.

Espinosa et al [9] also evaluated the CO₂ + guaiacol system at the same conditions of temperature. Their results were very similar to our results for predictions with GC-PPC-SAFT using *Scheme 1*. The difference between the GCA EoS used by Espinosa et al [9] and the one used in this work is in the additional terms for the formation of chain and multipolar interactions.

All the investigated systems with their standard deviations are presented in Table 10.

(Insert Figure 16)

5.4. Final discussion on the predictive quality of the GC-PPC-SAFT model with guaiacol

According to Table 10, the predictions made with GC-PPC-SAFT showed good agreement with experimental data, and deviations were lower than those obtained with molecular simulation predictions (Figure 16). Even though binary interactions parameters k_{ij} were used in the GC-PPC-SAFT model, these parameters were completely predicted and the values obtained were small, keeping the predictive nature of the model.

In all cases, it is observed that scheme 1 provides better predictions.

(Insert Table 10)

The analysis that is shown here illustrates following interesting features:

- Both for pure guaiacol as for mixtures with non-associating species, the association scheme has no effect on the final result. This was exemplified by mixtures with methane and with hexadecane. In all these cases, the model was capable to reproduce, both qualitatively as quantitatively the vapor-liquid and liquid-liquid phase envelopes.
- For mixtures with compounds that can only cross-associate, i.e. when it contains only a proton acceptor, the effect of having a large number of proton acceptor sites on the guaiacol molecule (scheme 2) only results in increasing self-association without allowing for an increased cross-association (both schemes feature only one proton donor site). As a consequence, the mixture shows a stronger positive deviation from ideality for scheme 2 than for scheme 1.
- For mixtures where both compounds contain proton-donors and proton-acceptors (alcohols, and water), the fact of increasing the number of proton acceptors on the guaiacol molecule results in an increase of cross-association. As a consequence, the mixture behavior shows a decrease in its positive deviation from ideality. This can be observed on the bubble curves of mixtures with both for n-octanol and ethanol, and has an even stronger effect on mixtures with water where the scheme 2 is unable to catch the liquid-liquid equilibrium.

In all comparisons with experimental data, scheme 1 showed better predictive results (Table 10). As a conclusion, we recommend using the smaller number of association sites to represent the molecule of guaiacol, i.e. scheme 1.

5.5. Cross-over phenomenon

Another interesting point is shown in the calculations: the cross-over behavior of the CO₂ + guaiacol system indicated by literature is also predicted by GC-PPC-SAFT predictions (Figure 17). It is observed that at low pressure, increasing temperature results in a larger solubility of guaiacol in the supercritical CO₂ (due to the increase in guaiacol vapor pressure), while at high pressure, the opposite is true (because higher temperature means a lower CO₂ density which in turn yields a lower solubility). This behavior is common for systems in supercritical conditions. Similar phenomena are observed in systems as 1,2 dimethoxybenzene + CO₂ and p-cresol + CO₂ [7], other systems [66-70].

(Insert Figure 17)

5.6. Other Systems

During the processing and treatment of bio-oil, other important compounds are produced, and in the absence of data for systems with toxic compounds, we performed predictive calculations for the mixtures of guaiacol + toxic gases (H₂S, NH₃, H₂, CO). Figures 18-21 present the predictions for these systems using GC-PPC-SAFT and molecular simulation. It is possible to observe that the model is consistent in the reproduction of phase envelopes. For H₂S, H₂ and CO the predictions using GC-PPC-SAFT, lead to higher solubilities of these gases in guaiacol than predicted by molecular simulation. The opposite was observed for NH₃. Figure 22 provides the same type of information in terms of Henry constants (here, it was not possible to compare with molecular simulation).

(Insert Figures 18 to 22)

It is observed that for H₂S and NH₃, the Henry constant is much smaller than for CO and H₂, this means that the solubility is much larger. In addition, the slope of these two sets of gases is opposite. This was already observed in our previous paper [71] where solubility was investigated in phenol- and furan type solvents: a gas that features association sites will dissolve better, and its solubility decreases with temperature (increasing Henry constant); on the opposite, the solubility of very light, non hydrogen-bonding gases is driven by free volume available in the solvent [72], which increases with temperature: their solubility increases with temperature, or their Henry constant decreases.

6. Conclusions

In this work, new experimental data of the system guaiacol- methane were presented and compared with predictive models (GC-PPC-SAFT and Molecular Simulation).

Despite the lack of experimental data, an examination of the different systems makes it possible to apprehend the predictive capacity of the model.

The use of a SAFT-type model implies the definition of an association scheme. The molecular structure of guaiacol was discussed in that perspective: it appears that intra-molecular association may de-activate some proton-donor or acceptor sites. In order to mimic this, two possible schemes have been proposed and analyzed. They indicated no difference for the pure compound properties or for mixtures with non-associating species. In the presence of species featuring proton donors and proton acceptors, the larger the number of sites, the more cross-association is observed. Yet, in the presence of species that only contain proton acceptors, the scheme with the larger number of sites shows more self-association and therefore a larger positive deviation (or less negative) from ideality.

As a general conclusion, for the guaiacol, the lower number of association sites (scheme 1) provided better agreement with experimental results, including liquid-liquid equilibrium with water.

Using the model that was thus developed, a number of observations could be made related to the cross-over phenomenon in supercritical solvents and related to the solubility of gases in guaiacol.

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NOMENCLATURE

k_{ij} = binary interaction parameter

ε = segment-segment interaction energy

σ = diameter of a segment

m = number of segments

μ = dipole moment

$x_p^{\mu}m$ = number of dipoles on the molecule
Q= quadrupole moment
 x_p^Qm = number of quadrupoles on the molecule
 n_{sites} = number of association sites
 ε^{AB}/k = association energy
 κ^{AB} = association volume
 R_{1-4} = chain fraction
 T_C = critical temperature
 P_C = critical pressure
 ω = acentric factor

7. Acknowledgment

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Figure Captions

Figure 1: Conformational isomers of guaiacol [56].

Figure 2: Intermolecular radial distribution function O(H)-O(H) (solid line) and O(H)-O (dashed line) in liquid guaiacol at 323.15 K, 0.1 MPa.

Figure 3: Intermolecular histogram O-H in liquid guaiacol at 323 K, 0.1 MPa.

Figure 4: Association schemes of for guaiacol.

Figure 5: Comparison of vapor pressure data of guaiacol from literature [60] and calculated using Molecular Simulation (□) and GC-PPC-SAFT using *Scheme 1* (Δ) and *Scheme 2* (○).

Figure 6: Comparison of liquid volume data of guaiacol from literature [60] and results using Molecular Simulation (□) and GC-PPC-SAFT using *Scheme 1* (Δ) and *Scheme 2* (○).

Figure 7: Comparison of vaporization enthalpy data of guaiacol from literature [60] and results using Molecular Simulation (\square) and GC-PPC-SAFT using *Scheme 1* (Δ) and *Scheme 2* (\circ).

Figure 8: Phase diagram of the system water + guaiacol at 313.6, 334.4, 353.9 and 372 K using GC-PPC-SAFT with the two guaiacol schemes. Experimental data from [61].

Figure 9: Guaiacol + water liquid-liquid phase equilibrium at 0.1 MPa, using GC-PPC-SAFT with the *Scheme 1* in the predictions (solid line). The use of *Scheme 2* didn't reveal any liquid-liquid phase split. Experimental data (*) from [62].

Figure 10: Phase diagram n-hexadecane + guaiacol system at 0.1 MPa, using GC-PPC-SAFT with the two guaiacol schemes. Experimental data from [63].

Figure 11: Phase diagram of the system ethanol + guaiacol at 290.15 K using GC-PPC-SAFT with the two guaiacol schemes. Experimental data from [64].

Figure 12: Phase diagram of the system octanol + guaiacol at 433.15, 448.15 and 463.15 K using GC-PPC-SAFT with the two guaiacol schemes. Experimental data from [8].

Figure 13: Bubble pressure of the guaiacol + acetone binary system at 290.15K using GC-PPC-SAFT with the two guaiacol schemes. Experimental data from [64]. Ideal mixture assumption between the extrapolated vapor pressures of the two pure components.

Figure 14: Phase behavior description of the butyl-acetate + guaiacol binary system at 101.3 kPa using GC-PPC-SAFT with the two guaiacol schemes. Experimental data from [65].

Figure 15: Phase diagram of the system methane + guaiacol 443.15 K using GC-PPC-SAFT with the two guaiacol schemes and Molecular Simulation. Experimental data (this work, Table 6).

Figure 16: Phase diagram of the system CO₂ + guaiacol at 393.15 K using GC-PPC-SAFT with the two guaiacol schemes and Molecular Simulation. Experimental data from [7].

Figure 17: Cross-over behavior for the CO₂ + guaiacol system using predicted values from GC-PPC-SAFT, using *Scheme 1*.

Figure 18: Phase diagram of the system H₂S + guaiacol at 373.15 K and 573.15 K using GC-PPC-SAFT (*Scheme 1*) and Molecular Simulation.

Figure 19: Phase diagram of the system NH₃ + guaiacol at 373.15 K and 573.15 K using GC-PPC-SAFT (*Scheme 1*) and Molecular Simulation.

Figure 20: Phase diagram of the system H₂ + guaiacol at 573.15 K using GC-PPC-SAFT (*Scheme 1*) and Molecular Simulation.

Figure 21: Phase diagram of the system CO + guaiacol at 573.15 K using GC-PPC-SAFT (*Scheme 1*) and Molecular Simulation.

Figure 22: Henry constant of gases in guaiacol.

Table 1: Parameters of the pure compounds used in GC-PPC-SAFT Equation of State.

Compound	ε/k (K)	σ (Å)	m	μ (D)	$x_p^\mu m$	Q (B)	$x_p^Q m$	association scheme (*)	ε^{AB}/k (K)	κ^{AB}	J (eV)	Ref
CH ₄	147.42	3.6582	1.0334	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	12.6	[15]
CO ₂	139.99	2.9839	1.8465	-	-	4.3	0.527	(- -)	449.71	0.0947	13.8	[15]
C ₂ H ₆ O	191.63	2.9178	3.0722	1.7	0.2	-	-	(- +)	2125.52	0.0940	12.8	[26]
H ₂ O	218.79	3.3845	0.8096	1.85	0.295	-	-	(- - + +)	1813.0	0.0356	10	[27]
H ₂	26.63	2.9060	1.1120	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	15	[15]
H ₂ S	225.05	3.4161	1.3018	-	-	-	-	(- + +)	449.71	0.0947	10.45	[17]
CO	95.25	3.3979	1.17	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	18	[28]
NH ₃	204.63	3.2386	1.1157	1.469	1.3976	-	-	(- + + +)	646.38	0.00597	0	[29]

(*): the association scheme shows the number of electron-donor (-) and electron acceptor (+) sites attributed to each group. '0' means no sites.

Table 2: Group Parameters of GC-PPC-SAFT Equation of State.

Group	ε/k (K)	σ (Å)	μ (D)	$x_p^{\mu}m$	Q (B)	x_p^Qm	Association Scheme (**)	ε^{AB}/k (K)	κ^{AB}	R_I	Ref
(CH ₃)	189.96	3.4873	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	0.7866	[30]
(CH ₂)	261.09	3.9308	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	0.3821	[30]
(CH) _{BR}	294.22	3.7572	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	0.3805	[17]
(C) _{AB}	391.54	4.2783	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	0.00156	[17]
(C=O)	480.73	3.7495	2.7	0.57	-	-	(-)	2143.3	0.00885	0.64373	[31]
(COO)	362.82	3.3447	(*)	1.15	-	-	(-)	2143.3	0.00885	0.82737	[32]
(OH) _{linear alcohols}	307.51	2.8138	1.7	0.5	-	-	(--+)	2143.3	0.00885	0.8318	[13]
(OH) _{guaiacol}	307.51	2.8138	1.22	0.5	-	-	(++)	2285.17	0.0052	0.2445	[33]
(OH) _{guaiacol}	307.51	2.8138	1.22	0.5	-	-	(--+)	1549.4	0.00898	1.0308	[10]
(-O-) _{guaiacol}	280.96	3.5764	1.22	1.2	-	-	(-)	2285.17	0.0052	0.4516	[32]
Guaiacol ring	-	-	-	-	8.5	0.25	(-)	1323.01	0.0052	-	[32]
Guaiacol ring	-	-	-	-	8.5	0.25	(-)	1000	0.0198	-	[10]

(*) See original paper for details.

(**) the association scheme shows the number of electron-donor (-) and electron acceptor (+) sites attributed to each group. '0' means no sites.

Table 3: Molecular model for small gases [34] – [39].

Molecule	Center of force	Position			Lennard-Jones Parameters		Charge (e)
		X	Y	Z	ϵ/k (K)	σ (Å)	
CH ₄	CH ₄	0	0	0	149.920	3.7327	0
	C	0	0	0	28.129	2.7570	0.6512
CO ₂	O1	1.149	0	0	80.507	3.0330	-0.3256
	O2	-1.149	0	0	80.507	3.0330	-0.3256
H ₂	H ₂	0	0	0	36.700	2.9600	
	q-	0	0	0	-	-	-0.9328
	q+(1)	0.3705	0	0	-	-	0.4664
	q+(2)	-0.3705	0	0	-	-	0.4664
CO	C	0	0	0	47.676	3.2490	0.05376
	O	1.1283	0	0	30.820	3.4052	-0.05376
H ₂ S	S	0	0	0	250.000	3.7300	0.4000
	H1	0.9639	0.9308	0	-	-	0.2500
	H2	-0.9639	-0.9308	0	-	-	0.2500
	q-	0	0.1862	0	-	-	-0.9000
NH ₃	N	0	0	0.0757	182.900	3.3760	-0.9993
	H1	0.9347	0	-0.3164	-	-	0.3331
	H2	-0.4673	0.8095	-0.3164	-	-	0.3331
	H3	-0.4673	-0.8095	-0.3164	-	-	0.3331

Table 4: Non-bonded parameters of the AUA4 force field for guaiacol.

Center of force	ϵ/k (K)	σ (Å)	δ (Å)	Charge (e)
CH ₃	120.15	3.607	0.216	+0.223
CH _{arom}	89.4	3.246	0.407	0
C _{arom} (-OH)	37.7	3.246	0	+0.265
C _{arom} (-O)	37.7	3.246	0	+0.223
O (-CH ₃)	59.69	2.991	0	-0.446
O (OH)	125.01	3.081	0.010	-0.700
H (OH)	0	0	0	+0.435

Table 5: Bonded parameters of the AUA4 force field for guaiacol.

Groups	Parameter			
	Bond	Angle		Torsion
	length r_0 (Å)	θ_0 (deg)	$k_{bending}$ (K)	a_i (K)
CH ₃ -O	1.360	-	-	-
CH _{x arom} =CH _{x arom} ($x=0$ or 1)	1.400	-	-	-
C _{arom} -O	1.430	-	-	-
O-H	0.945	-	-	-
CH ₃ -O- CH _{arom}	-	112	69000	-
CH _{x arom} =CH _{x arom} =CH _{x arom} ($x=0$ or 1)	-	120	rigid	-
CH _{x arom} =C _{arom} -O ($x=0$ ou 1)	-	120	rigid	-
C _{arom} -O-H	-	108.5	61000	-
CH _{x arom} -CH _{x arom} -CH _{x arom} -CH _{x arom} ($x=0$ or 1)	-	-	-	rigid
CH _{x arom} -CH _{x arom} -CH _{x arom} -O ($x=0$ ou 1)	-	-	-	rigid
CH _{x arom} -CH _{x arom} -O-H	-	-	-	$a_0= 845.65$; $a_1=0$; $a_2= - 845.65$; $a_3= 0$
O-CH _{x arom} -CH _{x arom} -CH _{x arom}	-	-	-	rigid
O-C _{arom} -C _{arom} -O	-	-	-	rigid
CH _{arom} -CH _{arom} -O-CH ₃	-	-	-	$a_0=1631.27$; $a_1= 2651.77$; $a_2= 868.86$; $a_3= -2184.14$; $a_4= -3028.37$; $a_5= -3065.12$; $a_6= 1926.79$; $a_7= 1723.03$; $a_8= -497.96$

Table 6: Experimental data of systems methane + guaiacol. Uncertainties (U) on the measurements are as follows: $U(T) = 0.05$ K, $U(P) = 0.05$ MPa, $u(x_1) = 0.002$

Systems	T (K)	P (MPa)	x_1
Methane (1) + guaiacol (2)	443.5	4.967	0.03421
	443.5	9.988	0.06633
	443.5	14.874	0.10439
	443.5	24.929	0.20514
	443.5	34.916	0.26742

Table 7: Associative Parameters for guaiacol.

	Group	Parameters		
		ε^{AB}/k (K)	κ^{AB}	R
<i>Scheme 1</i>	OH	812.17	0.2429	0.4040
	O	2298.84	0.0051	0.4516
<i>Scheme 2</i>	OH	534.50	0.1466	0.4102
	O	2303.49	0.0050	0.4511

Table 8: Results of vapor pressures, density and heat of vaporization of guaiacol obtained from Molecular Simulation.

Temperature (K)	Vapor Pressure (MPa)	Density (kg/m ³)	Heat of vaporization (kJ/mol)
450	0.051	967.3	48.6
500	0.173	922.9	45.4
550	0.460	870.0	41.2
600	0.986	802.3	36.3

Table 9: Relative deviations from experimental data for correlated values of vapor pressure, liquid volume and vaporization enthalpy of guaiacol using GC-PPC-SAFT and Molecular Simulation (in %).

	Temperature range (K)	GC-PPC-SAFT		Molecular Simulation
		<i>Scheme 1</i>	<i>Scheme 2</i>	
Vapor Pressure	361-478	2.15	2.17	4.8
Liquid Volume	313-478	0.36	0.38	1.3
Vaporization Enthalpy	305-627	4.5	4.5	4.8

Table 10: Relative deviations of the solubility for systems with guaiacol.

System	Temperature (K)	Relative Deviation (%) ^a			Ref
		GC-PPC-SAFT		Molecular Simulation	
		<i>Scheme 1</i>	<i>Scheme 2</i>		
CO ₂ + guaiacol	323.15	11.9	10.4	-	[7]
	353.15	12.5	9.4	-	
	393.15	10.3	4.7	56.4	
Methane + guaiacol	443.15	20.2	19.5	-	This work
Ethanol + guaiacol	290.15	6.2 (or 2.5 ^b)	9.1 (or 7.1 ^b)	-	[64]
Octanol + guaiacol	433.15	1.7	3.2	-	[8]
	488.15	1.3	3.7	-	
	463.15	0.6	2.4	-	
Acetone + guaiacol	290.15	50 ^c	71 ^c	-	[64]
Butyl acetate + guaiacol	(401.2 - 473.5) ^d	26	36	-	[65]
Water + guaiacol	313.6	7.8	>100	-	[61]
	334.4	12.0	>100	-	
	353.9	18.0	>100	-	
	372.0	17.6	>100	-	

^a Relative Deviation (%) = $\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_i^n \left| \frac{x_i^{cal} - x_i^{exp}}{x_i^{exp}} \right| \right) \times 100$, where x_i is the molar liquid fraction of the solvent

(1), except for (c), ^b Disregarding the value at 1.9×10^{-3} MPa, ^c relative deviation expressed in bubble pressure $\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_i^n \left| \frac{P_i^{cal} - P_i^{exp}}{P_i^{exp}} \right| \right) \times 100$, ^d experimental data at isobaric conditions (101.3 kPa).

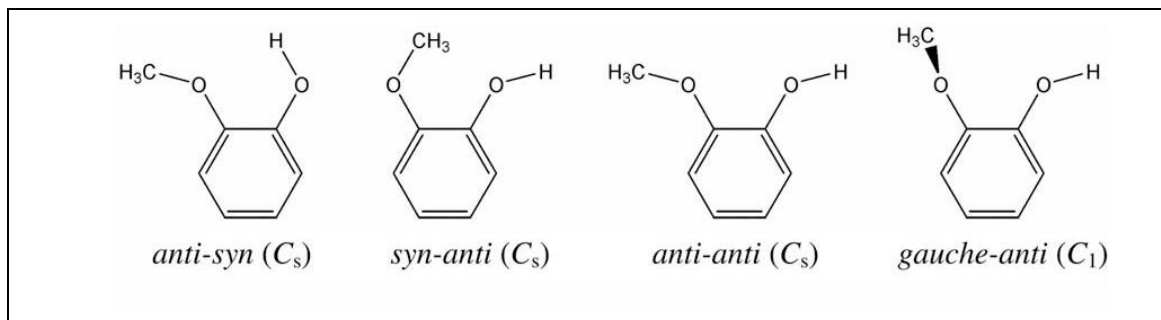


Figure 1.

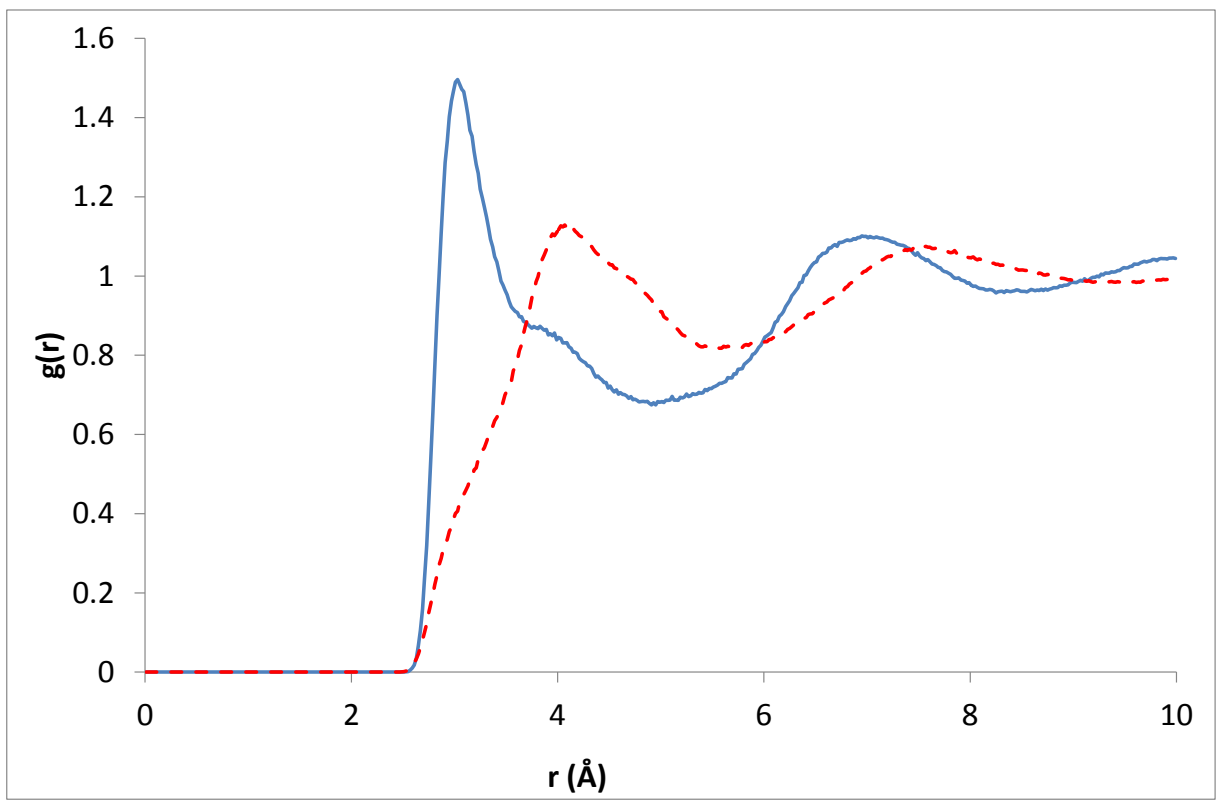


Figure 2.

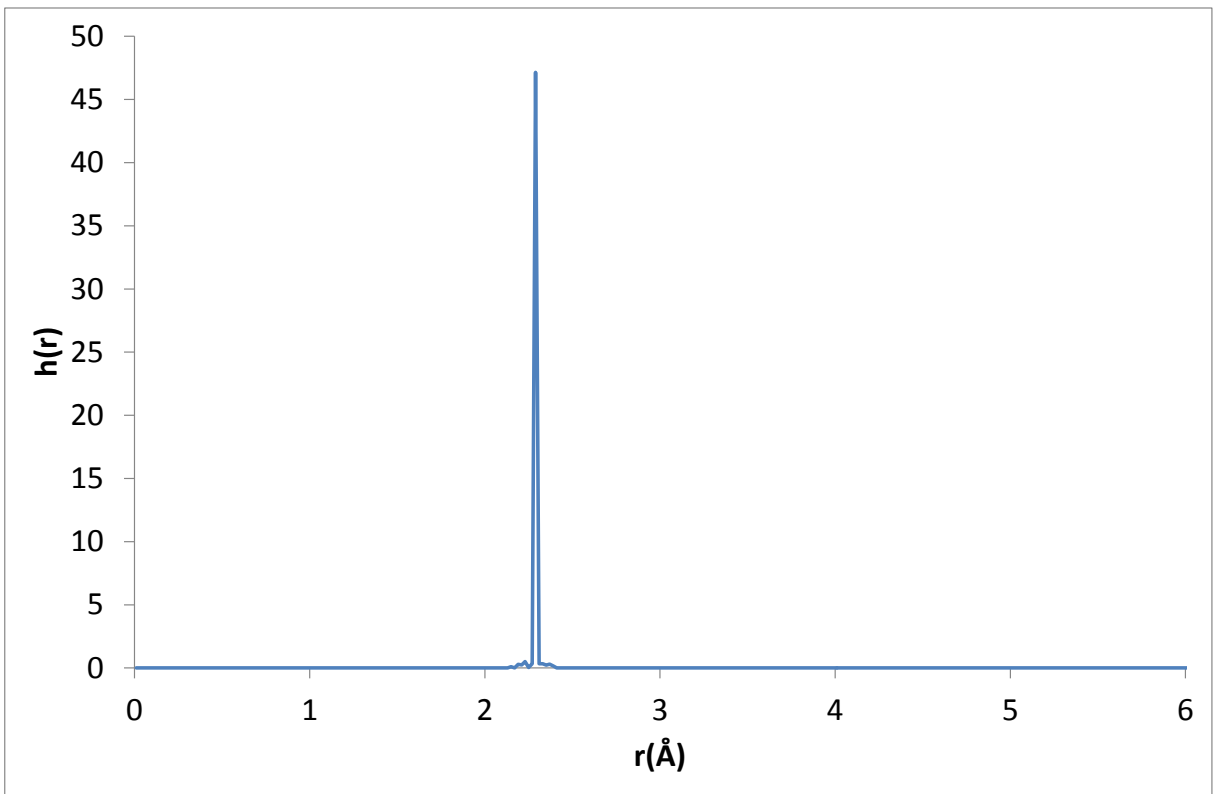


Figure 3.

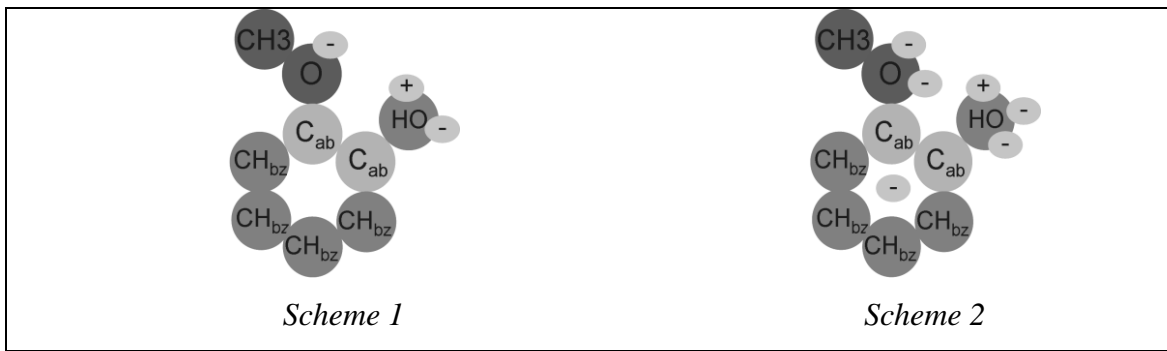


Figure 4.

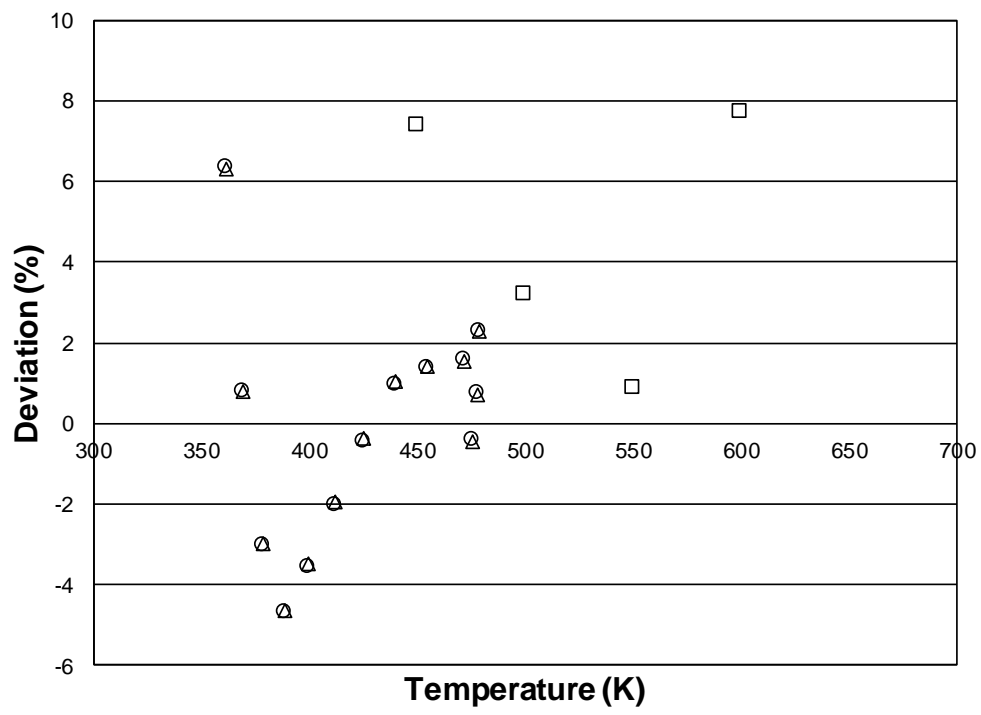


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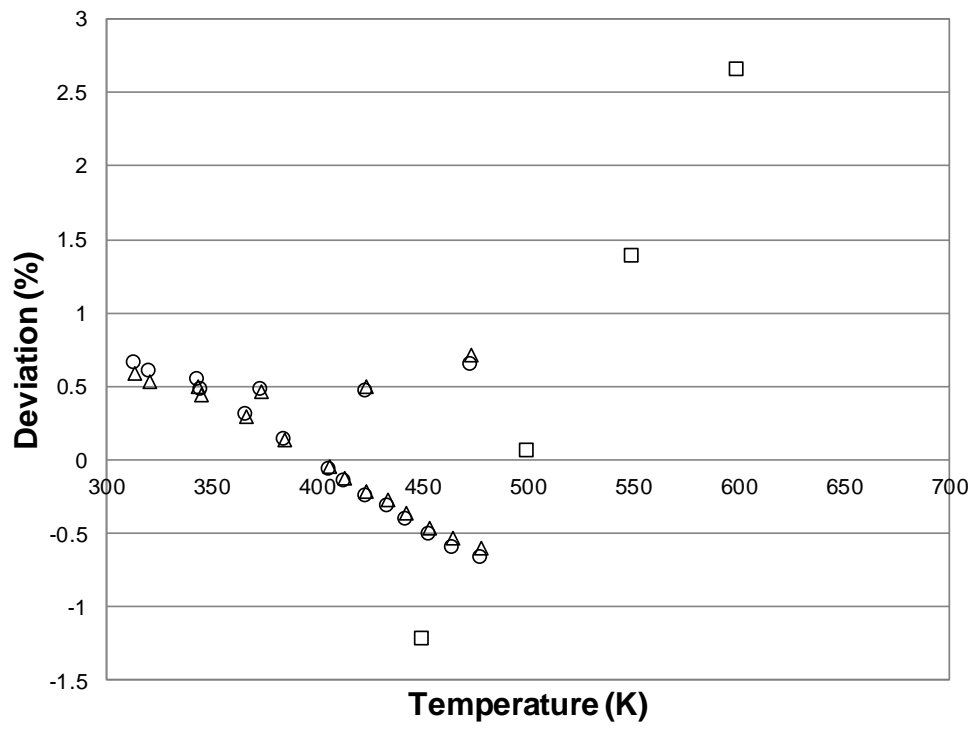


Figure 6.

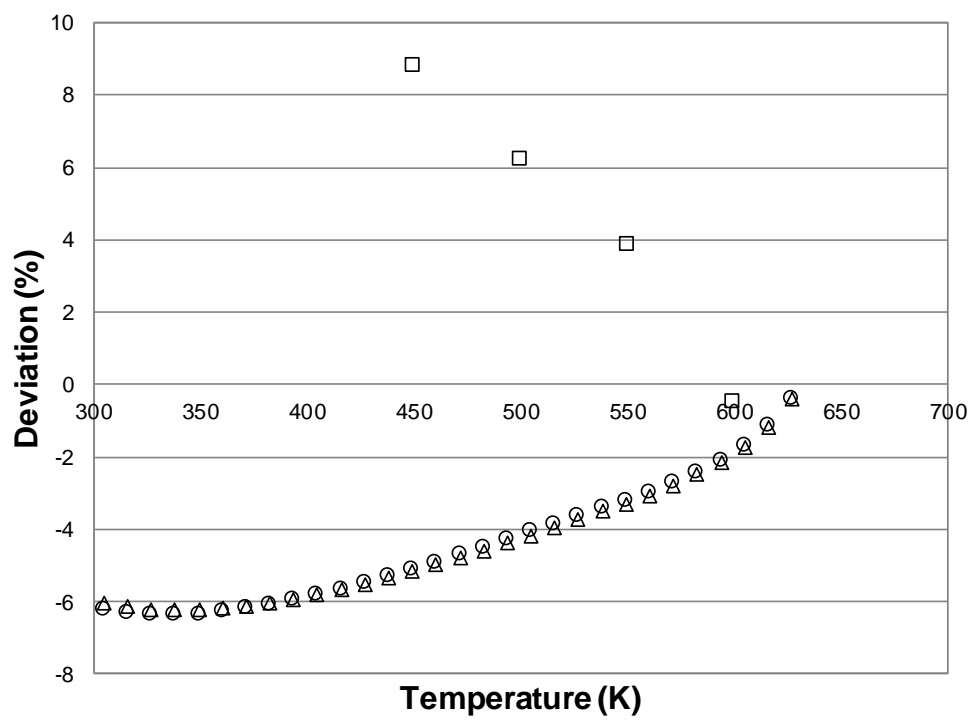


Figure 7 .

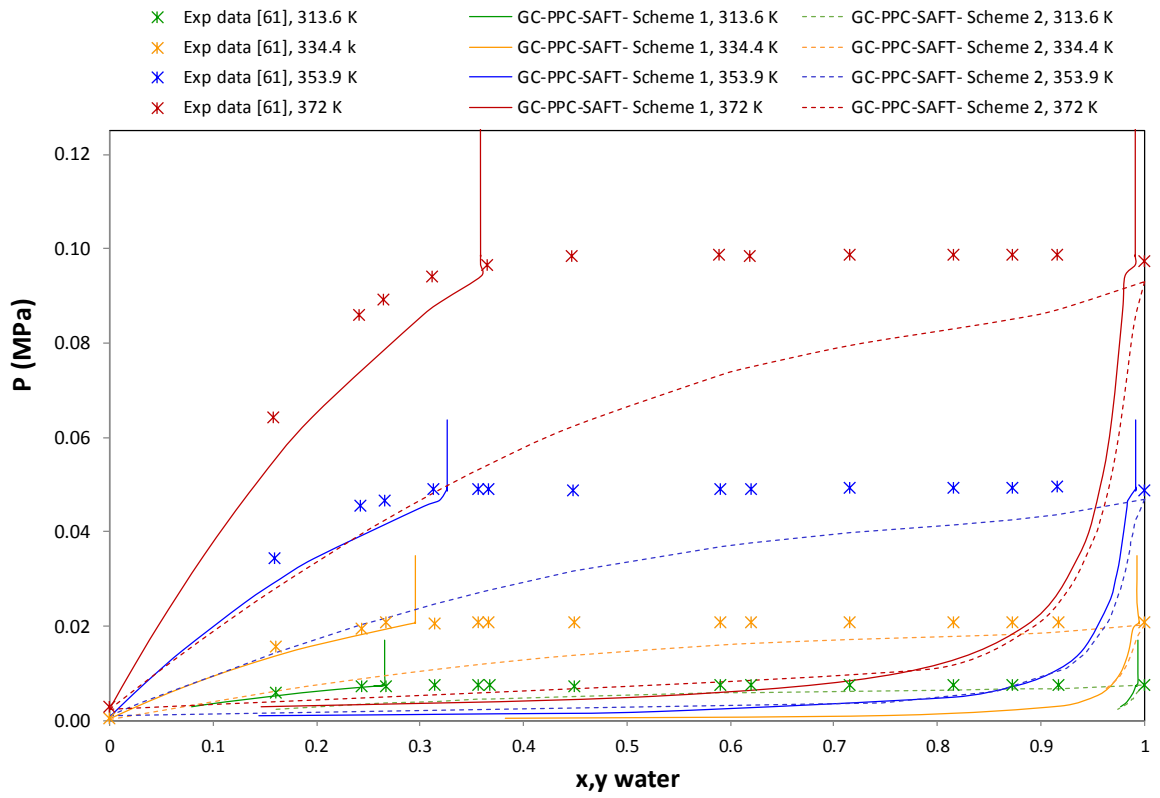


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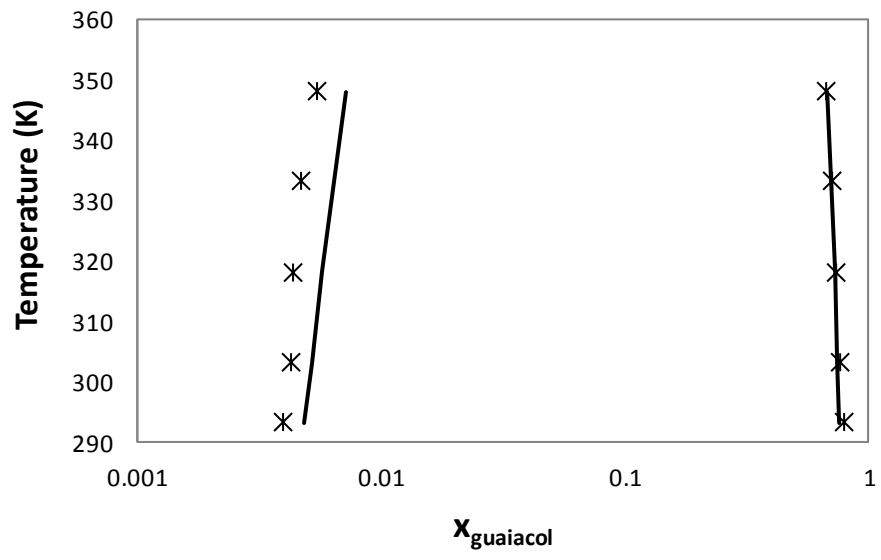


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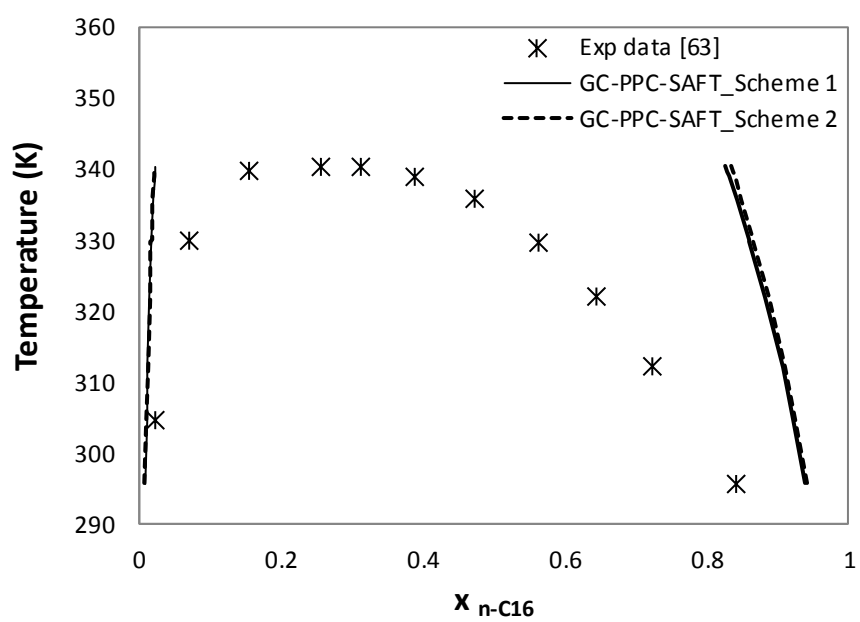


Figure 10.

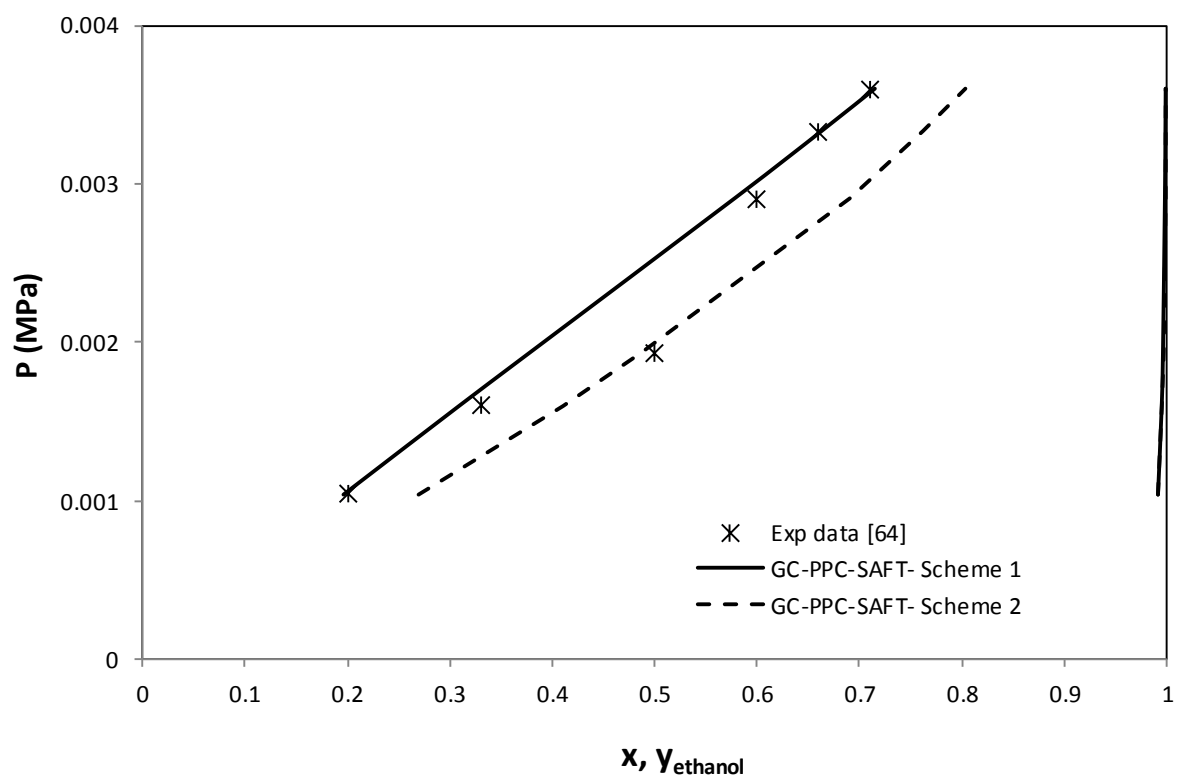


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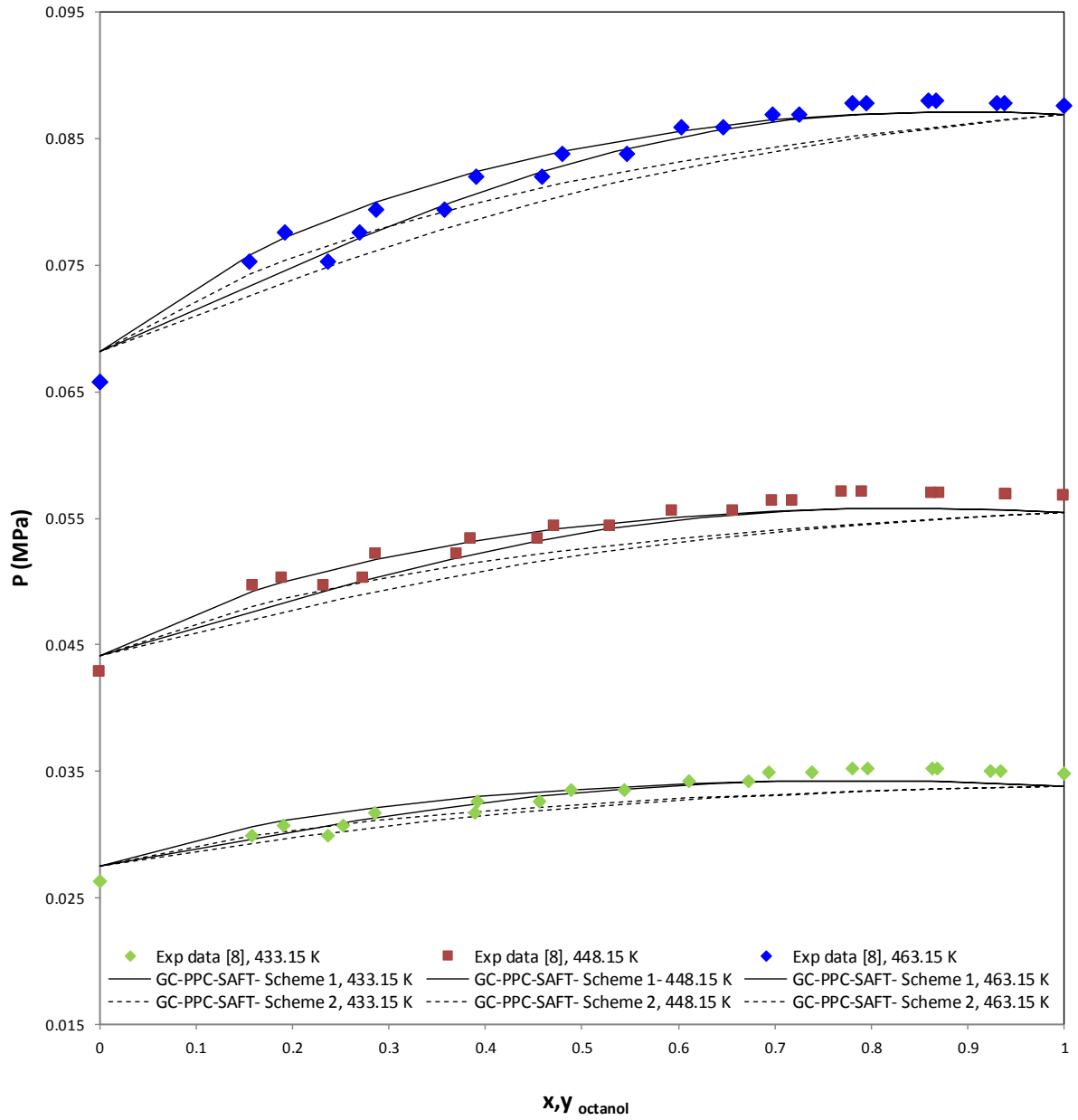


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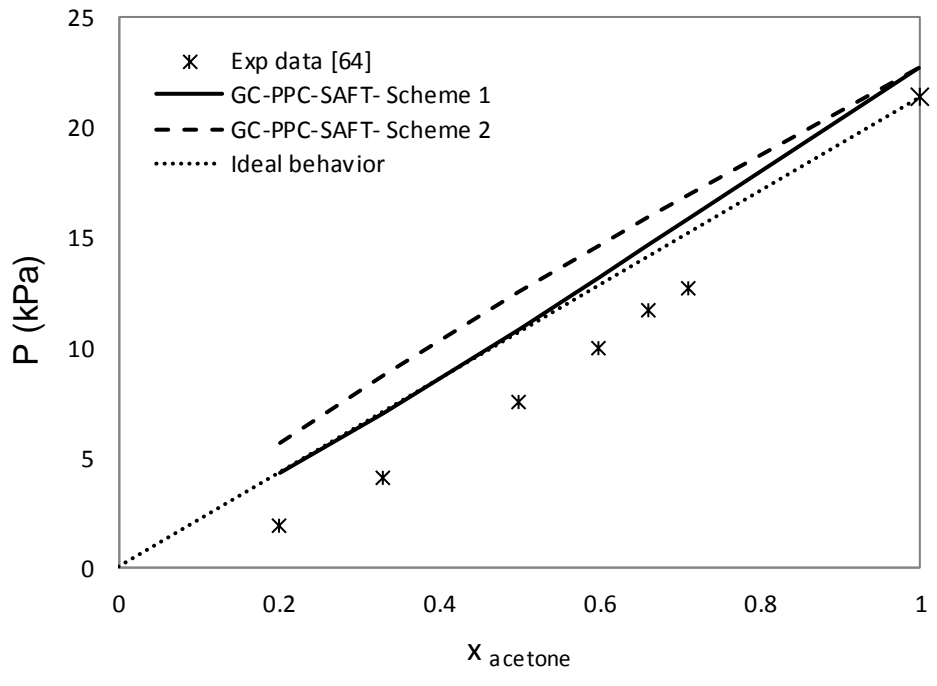


Figure 13.

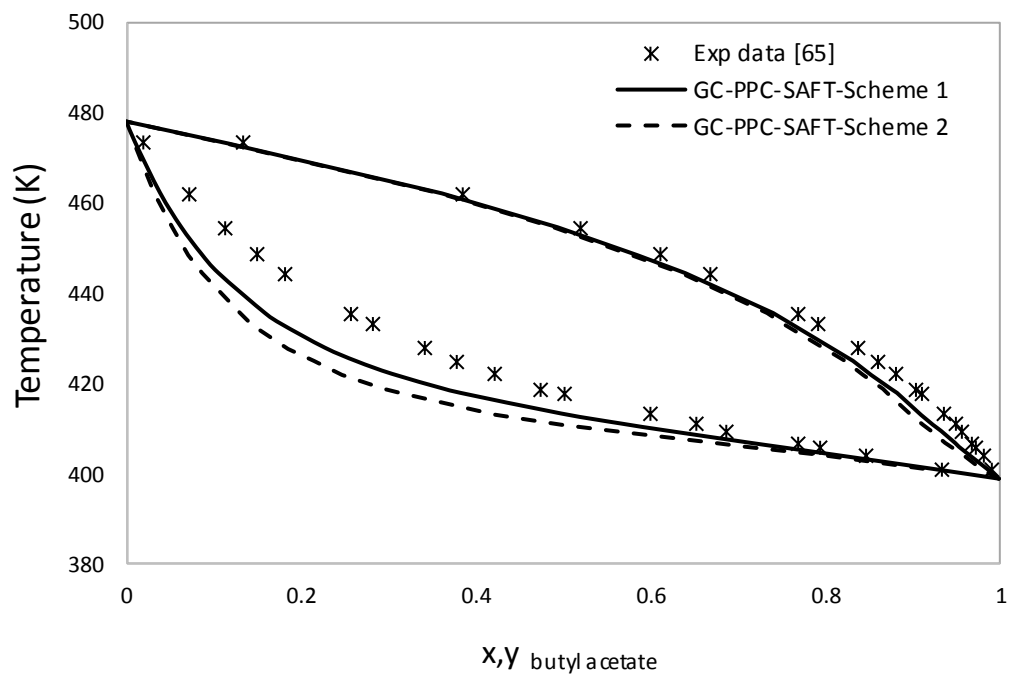


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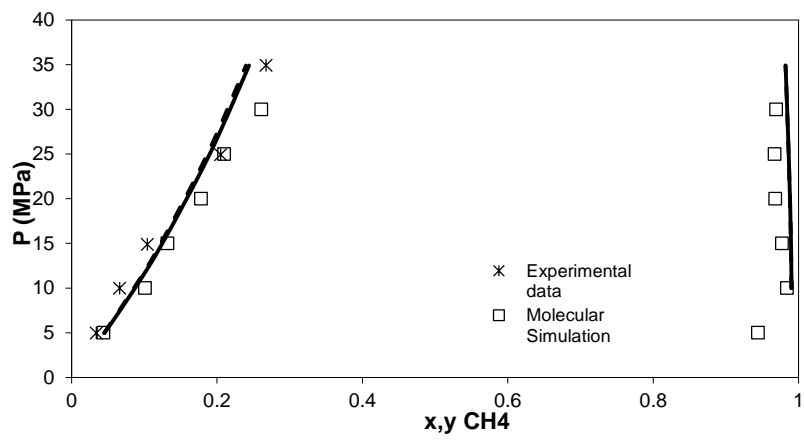


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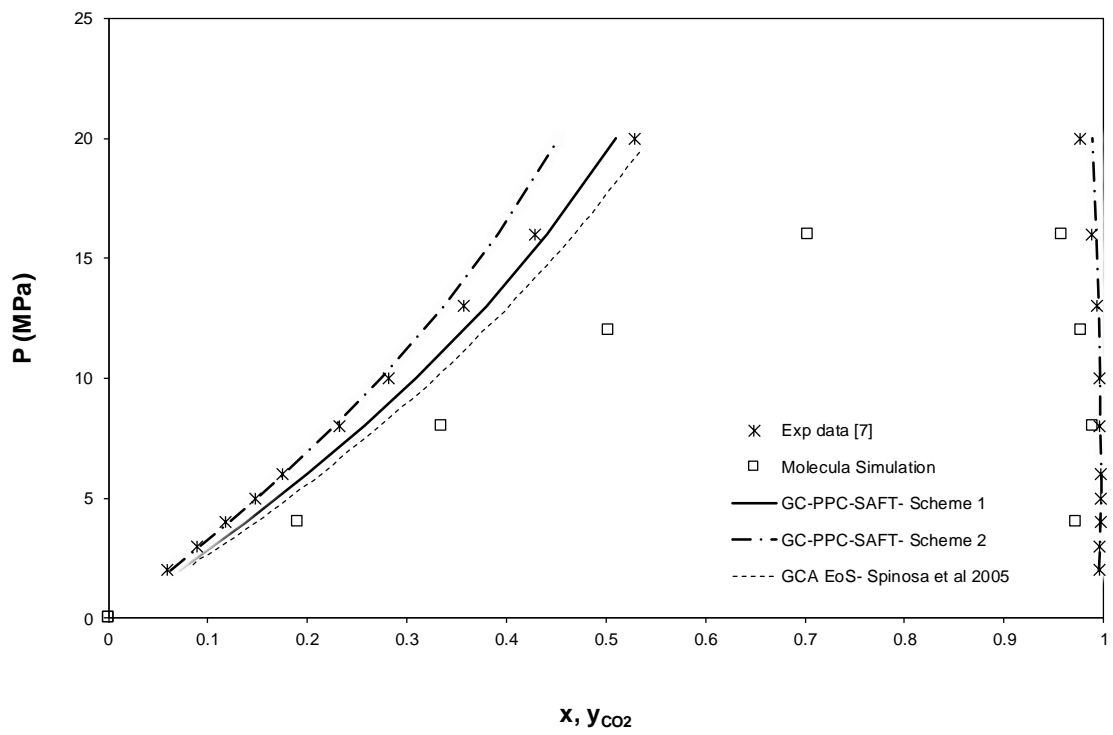


Figure 16.

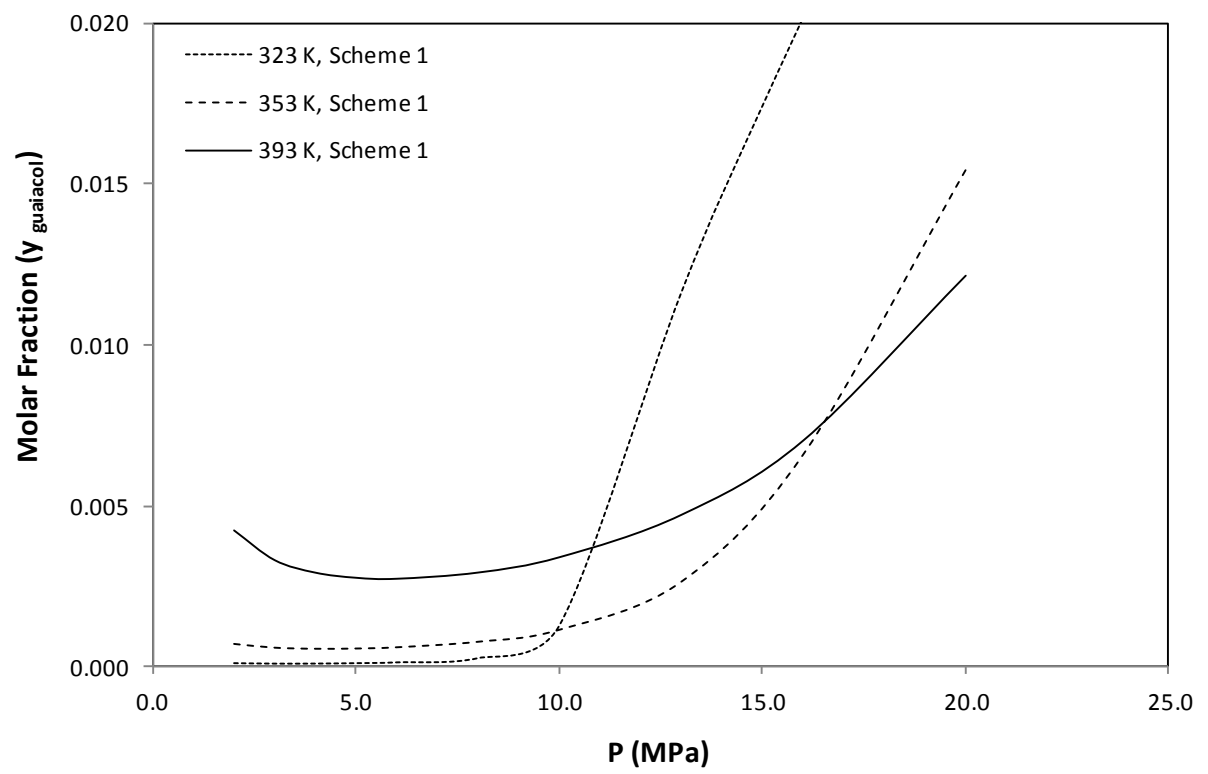


Figure 17.

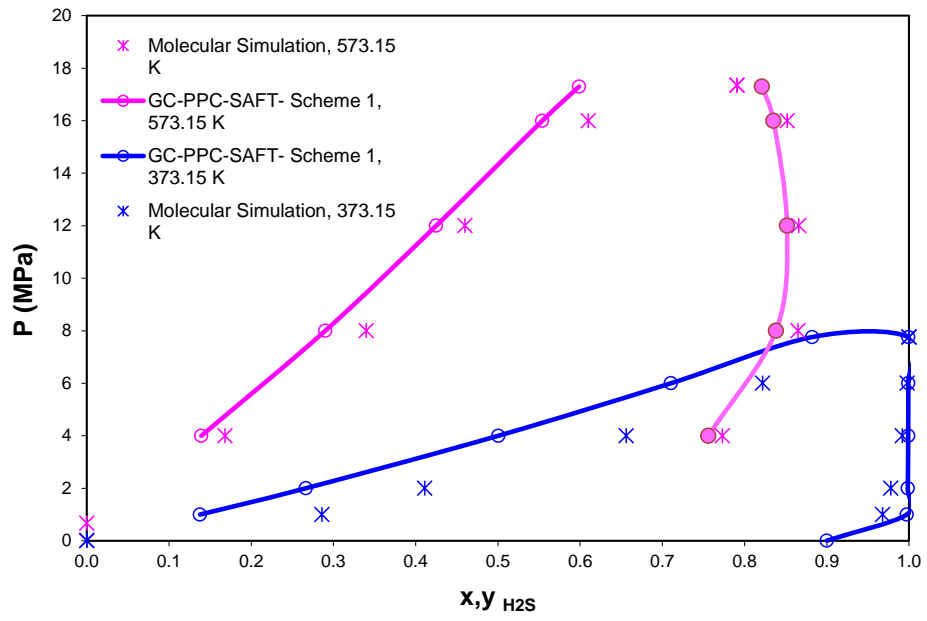


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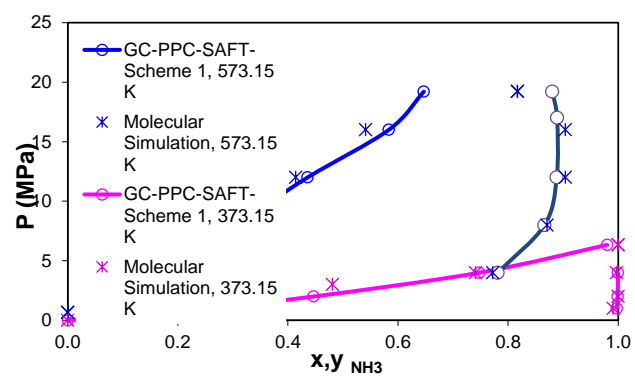


Figure 19.

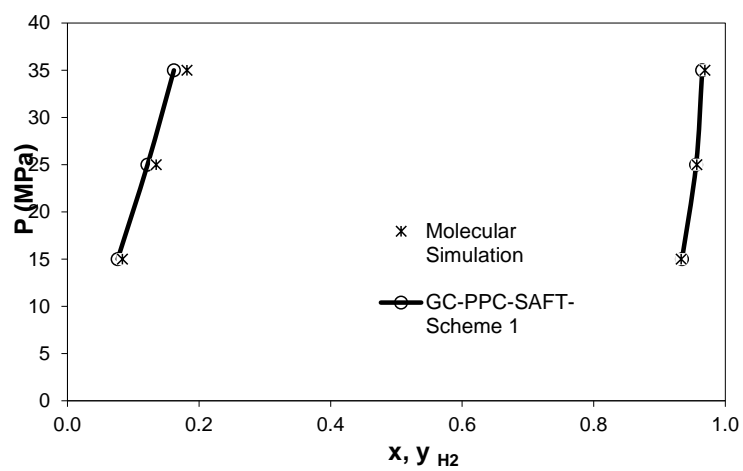


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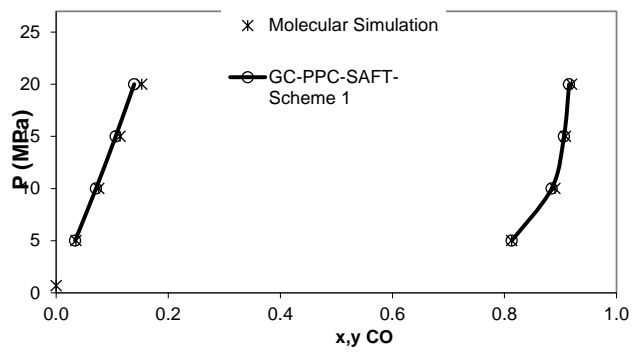


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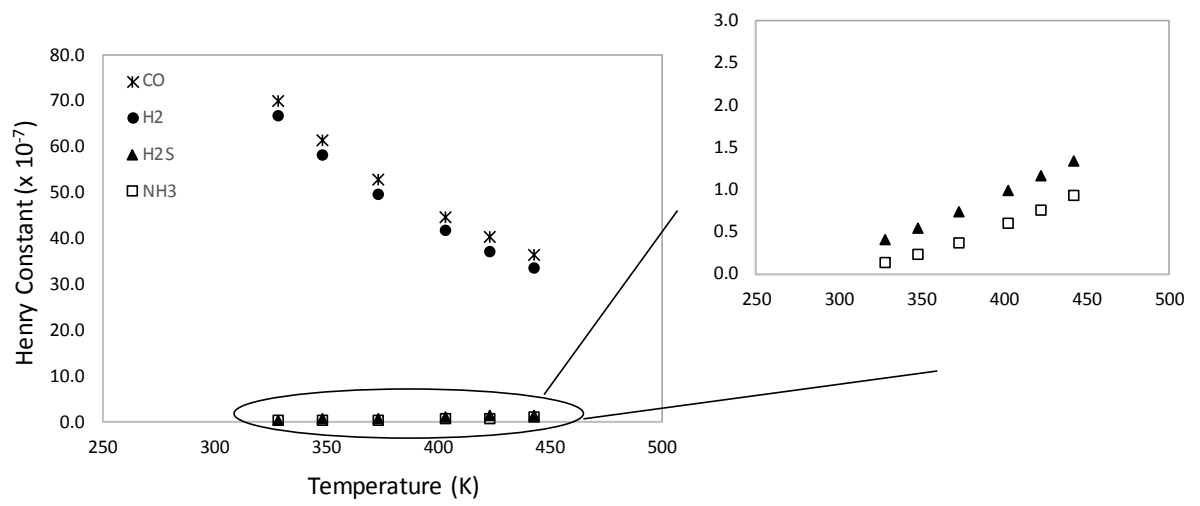


Figure 22.