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Khouloud Saadallah, Véronique Lachet, Benoit Creton, Marie-Camille Caumon, Aurélien Randi, et al.. Solubility study of binary systems containing sulfur dioxide and water : A combination of Raman spectroscopy and Monte Carlo molecular simulation. Fluid Phase Equilibria, 2023, 574, pp.113901. 10.1016/j.fluid.2023.113901 . hal-04167730

HAL Id: hal-04167730 https://hal.science/hal-04167730

Submitted on 30 Aug 2023

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Solubility study of binary systems containing sulfur dioxide and water: a combination of Raman spectroscopy and Monte Carlo molecular simulation

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Abstract

Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) is one of the mitigation approaches that can be used to control CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere and to limit global warming. The CO₂ stream injected underground may contain small amounts of associated gaseous components such as SO₂. One of the key parameters needed to predict the physical and chemical evolution of the storage is solubility. Unfortunately, there is only scarce information on hazardous binary systems containing such gases. The purpose of this study is to acquire new thermodynamic data on SO₂ under geological conditions of pressure and temperature. The solubility of SO₂ in water is measured by Raman spectroscopy using high-pressure optical cells and capillary capsules after a calibration based on Monte Carlo (MC) molecular simulation and literature data. New solubility data are measured in the temperature range 20 °C–120 °C and pressures up to 25 bar. By introducing an empirical temperature-dependent or temperature-independent binary interaction coefficient k_{ij} between water and sulfur dioxide, it is possible to obtain a good agreement between experiments and MC simulations in both liquid-vapor and liquid-liquid conditions.

Keywords: CO2 storage ; Thermodynamics ; SO2 solubility ; Raman spectroscopy ; Molecular Simulation

1. Introduction

In the aim of facing global warming and the significant increase in Earth temperature, the netzero commitments must be backed by valuable actions[1]. The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere remains one of the important mitigation methods. The focus on CO₂ as one of the main greenhouse gases is due to long lasting of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and the large amount of CO₂ emitted by the industry. Indeed, CO₂ remains in the atmosphere longer than other major heat-trapping gases emitted by industrial activities[2]. CO₂ capture involves the combustion of fossil resources referring to the burning of oil, natural gas, and coal to generate energy. Various technologies were proposed to regulate the anthropogenic CO₂ emissions. One of them is the carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS)

technique[3]. In this case, CO₂ is captured from large point sources, compressed, transported and then utilized or stored into geological formations which can be saline aquifers or depleted reservoirs[4]. There are different CO₂ capture methods including post-, pre-, and oxy-combustion processes. Depending on the steam sources and the capture method used, the gas steam may include other cocaptured gases. For example, the oxy-combustion capture can generate a small percentage of SO₂, N₂, Ar and $O_2[5]$. A complete purification of CO_2 prior to the storage is not considered in most cases because of its low efficiency, high costs and energyconsumption during the separation process[6]. The capability of storing CO₂ along with other impurities is still under research. The existence of these impurities might impact the design and operation of CCUS[7]. Indeed, CO_2 and the associated gases may react with the subsurface components including the

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reservoir rocks and the downhole well equipment. In addition, these impurities can modify the physical properties of the gas stream[8]. Besides, the presence of impurities might have an impact as well on trapping mechanisms by modifying the properties of the injected fluid and the physic-chemical conditions of trapping (redox, pH, liquid-gas equilibria ...)[9].

Therefore, it is mandatory to take these coinjected gases into consideration when designing and processing the capture, transport, and storage. The knowledge of thermodynamic properties of these gas mixtures is required to understand the role played by those impurity gases in CCUS. Thermodynamic data such as solubility are required to understand and predict, based on geochemical codes[10,11], the behavior of the gases injected in subsurface geological formations.

SO₂ is one of these impurity gas. Its concentration can be up to 1.5% in the mixture [12]. Thus, its partial pressure in the mixture is never exceeding a few bar. Before moving into the study of ternary mixtures containing CO₂, SO₂ and water, the major focus is the solubility of SO₂ in water. Nowadays, this system begins to be the subject of various investigations as it is related to many industrial applications including the design of flue-gas desulfurization processes or CCUS operations[9]. SO₂ is an acidic, reactive chemical species. It has a very high solubility compared to other gases. Its solubility is about 100 times higher than CO₂ (Figure I).



Figure 1: Solubility of some gases in water at 25 °C and 1 bar[13].

Unfortunately, only scarce information is available in the literature[14–30] for the SO₂/H₂O mixtures. Most of the studies were carried out at low pressure and temperature range as shown in Figure 2. Only few of them are performed at higher pressure[25].



Figure 2: Pressure and temperature conditions covered by the experimental data available in the literature for SO₂ solubility in water[14–30].

The scarcity of available data might be due to the toxicity and hazardous nature of SO₂, along with some potential corrosion issues. It is known that the latter can be toxic even at low concentrations in the atmosphere. Indeed, the Occupational Exposure Limit Values are between 2 ppm (average) and 5 ppm (short term) [31]. Handling SO₂ requires special precautions when it comes to the material used to avoid corrosion.

The purpose of this study is to determine the solubility of SO₂ in water at pressure lower than 25 bar (to remain in the liquid-vapor domain) and temperature up to 80°C, in relation with CCUS conditions. In this study, experimental data using Raman spectroscopy along with the high-pressure optical cells (HPOC) and capillary capsules were conducted in a first part. The second approach was to use Monte Carlo (MC) molecular simulation technique to predict the vapor-liquid and liquidliquid equilibria including the solubility data for SO_2/H_2O mixtures. Such simulations were performed in a previous study[32] for this binary system. However, the simulation results were not in good quantitative agreement with available experimental data. In this paper, we propose hereafter a comparison of different models used to describe H₂O and SO₂ molecules in the simulations including the use of both T-dependent and constant binary interaction parameters (k_{ij}) . The solubility values for SO₂ in pure water experimentally determined in this study were compared with experimental data of SO₂ solubility from literature and with MC molecular simulations from this work.

Nomencla	nture
CCUS	Carbon Capture, Utilization, and storage
FSCC	Fused Silica Capillary Capsule
HPOC	High Pressure Optical Cell
PAR	Peak Area Ratio
Р	Pressure
Т	Temperature
NPT	Isobaric-isothermal ensemble
RDSCS	Relative Differential Scattering Cross
Section	
MC	Monte Carlo
TIP4P	Transferable Intermolecular Potential
with 4 site	S
SPC	Simple Point Charge
CBMC	Configurational Bias Monte Carlo
k _{ij}	Binary Interaction Parameter

2. Materials and methodologies

2.1. High pressure optical cells

The experimental method for this study has been already used for various applications[33–37]. In this technique, both microcapillaries and *in situ* Raman measurements are combined. In this case, the capillary is considered as a micro-reactor that makes possible, using Raman spectroscopy, to study different fluid characteristics[38] including the solubility, diffusivity, and the chemical composition. Experiments were performed using pure water (deionized Milli-Q water, 18.2 M Ω .cm). The mixtures were prepared from a high purity SO₂ (99.9% purity, ALPHAGAZTM/Air Liquide).

The use of microcapillaries that have small cell volumes allows to achieve high pressure and high temperature values suitable to work under safe conditions when dealing with samples containing toxic gases such as sulfur dioxide. Samples are loaded into fused silica capillary tubing with round cross-sections with an external coating of polyimide layer (Polymicro Technologies). The outside diameter for the tubing is $354.8 \,\mu\text{m}$ and the internal diameter is $251.4 \,\mu\text{m}$. The total length for the tubing used is 7.5 cm.

The first step is to remove the external protective layer for the tubing using a micro-torch. The purpose behind this is to get the potential for *in situ* spectroscopic analysis and for an optimized optical observation[39]. At the beginning, only one end of the tubing is being welded to load the sample from the open extremity. Water is loaded inside the capillary using a syringe ($< 0.1 \mu$ L). The capillary is then glued to 1/16" outside diameter stainless steel tube using an epoxy glue which showed a better chemical resistance to SO₂ than cyanoacrylate glue. The tube is in its turn connected to a high-pressure stainless-steel valve serving as a connection to the pressurization device. It should be noticed that the internal surface of the stainless-steel components in direct contact with SO₂ are treated by Sulfinert[®] passivation technique. This treatment prevents the active sulfur compounds from reacting with or adsorbing to the metal alloy. Besides pressure that can be controlled using HPOC, it is also possible to control temperature using a heating-cooling stage (Linkam CAP500). Thereby, the gas/water mixtures are analyzed by Raman spectroscopy through the microcapillary at controlled pressure and temperature conditions. Figure 3 shows a simplified sketch of the experimental setup. More details about the installations can be found in Caumon et al. and Chou et al. [34,39].



Figure 3: a simplified sketch of the HPOC system coupled with a fused silica capillary set on a heating-cooling stage. The fixed part is composed of a manual pressure generator, pressure transducer (*PT*), valves, and a vacuum pump for purging. The movable part connects the system with the heating-cooling stage.

2.2. Raman Spectroscopy

2.2.1. Calibration process

Raman spectroscopy is able to identify the molecular aspects of the sample based on its characteristic vibrational modes[40]. The spectral features such as peak position, intensity, width, and area depends on molecular structure and physical environment[41].

The quantitative use of Raman spectroscopy is based on the general equation derived from the theory suggested in Placzek *et al.*[40] handbook and detailed in Dhamelincourt *et al.*[42]. The relative concentrations of two species analyzed at the same time is expressed as follows:

$$\frac{C_A}{C_B} = \frac{A_A/(\sigma_A \times \xi_A)}{A_B/(\sigma_B \times \xi_B)} = \frac{A_A/\sigma_A^*}{A_B/\sigma_B^*}$$
(1)

Where A_i is the peak area, C_i the concentration of the species *i* in the scattering volume, ξ_i the instrumental parameter, σ_i the relative differential scattering cross section (*RDSCS*) of the species, and σ_i^* the effective cross section including the instrumental parameter.

The molar ratio is proportional to the peak area ratio A_A/A_B using the ratio of cross section. However, the value of *RDSCS* for dissolved SO₂ stretching vibration is not available in the literature. Thus, a calibration procedure must be used to relate peak area and concentration. In this work, it is performed by using the solubility data of Rumpf *et al.*[30] (Figure 4), which provide the most complete and coherent set, to calculate the quantification factor (*i.e.* the ratio of the effective cross sections).

In their papers, the authors[30] have studied the solubility of SO₂ in water at temperature values between 20 °C and 120 °C and at pressure lower than 25 bar. The purpose is to determine a relationship between the Peak Area Ratio (*PAR*) and the molality of SO₂ dissolved in water measured by Rumpf *et al.*[30]. The molality is considered as the number of mole of solute per kg of solvent and expressed in mol/kg.

The acquisitions are run at all the *P*,*T* values of the literature data[30] and then at intermediate temperature values (30 °C and 80 °C) in order to better check the reliability of the linear correlation and to provide new solubility data. Raman acquisitions are measured at the exact same pressure of those of literature data[30] using a high precision pressure sensor (\pm 0.01 bar, type PAA-33X/80794 manufactured by Keller Druck).



Figure 4: Solubility of SO₂ in water (mol of SO₂ per kg of water) as a function of pressure at different temperature values[30].

The measurement of SO_2 solubility is complex because of its high solubility and because of its type-III phase diagram according to the classification scheme of Van Konynenburg and Scott [43,44]. The measurements are executed from the highest to the lowest targeted pressure to avoid the total dissolution of SO_2 and thus to ensure thermodynamic equilibrium between the liquid and vapor phases.

2.2.2. Raman spectra acquisition

The Raman spectrometer is a LabRAM HR spectrometer (Horiba Jobin-Yvon) equipped with a 1 800 gr.mm⁻¹ grating and an Edge filter. The choice behind using a higher groove density is to have higher spectral resolution. The wavelength of the laser is 514.73 nm (Cobolt Fandango). The aperture of the confocal hole is 1 000 µm and a split aperture of 100 μ m, focused inside the capillary using a $\times 20$ objective (Olympus). All the spectra are acquired with 6 successive repetitions. Each spectrum was the average of 10 accumulations of 3 s. To have a better accuracy for the peak position and consequently a better determination of the species present, a Neon lamp was placed on the same optical path (Horiba Sample Ref). The lamp provides reference lines for calibrating the peak positions of SO₂ species present in the aqueous solution. Neon peak positions are taken from NIST database[45].

The water spectrum consists of a broad O-H stretching vibration[46] band between 3 200 cm⁻¹ and 3 400 cm⁻¹ and an O-H bending vibration band at 1 650 cm⁻¹. SO₂ has 3 vibrational modes[46]: the deformation mode of O=S=O at ~520 cm⁻¹, the symmetric stretching mode S=O at ~1 150 cm⁻¹ and

the asymmetric stretching mode S=O at ~ 1 320 cm⁻¹. All these modes are Raman active.

The spectra are processed using Laspec6 software (Horiba). A third-order polynomial baseline is first subtracted in the wavenumber interval $800 \text{ cm}^{-1} - 4\ 000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The peaks are fitted using Gaussian-Lorentzian function. The Raman O-H stretching region is fitted with three Gaussian-Lorentzian sub-bands. The ratio between the area (integrated intensity) of the main SO₂ peak (1 150 cm⁻¹) and the sum of the three peak areas of the stretching band of H₂O is used in this study.

3. Simulation technique

3.1. MC simulation details

Monte Carlo molecular simulations allow to calculate the macroscopic equilibrium properties from a microscopic description of a system using a few hundred to thousand particles. The macroscopic fluid properties are derived by the calculation of averages over some generated microscopic configurations. The GIBBS[47] MC software is used to determine thermodynamic data for SO₂/H₂O mixtures. For this work, the NPT-Gibbs ensemble is used to simulate two coexisting phases with a constant total number of particles N, a constant pressure P and a constant temperature T[48]. In the Gibbs ensemble, coexisting phases are simulated by individual simulation boxes without explicit interface. The phase equilibrium is ensured by particle transfers between the two boxes.

Specific MC moves are applied to make the system evolve within the configurational space. Internal Monte Carlo moves (rigid body translations, rigid body rotations, configurationalbias regrowth in case of flexible molecules) are used to impose thermal equilibrium at the considered temperature. Volume changes are used to maintain pressure equilibrium, and molecule transfers between phases allow chemical equilibrium between the two phases. In order to improve the efficiency of the sampling, pre-insertion[49] and orientational[50] biases have been used during the transfer moves of rigid molecules. This algorithm involves two steps. The first step consists in the selection of a suitable location for inserting a new molecule by testing several places with a simple The Lennard-Jones particle. Lennard-Jones parameters used during this step are the parameters of the force field corresponding to the sulfur atom for the SO₂ molecules and to the oxygen atom for the H₂O molecules. Note that the Lennard-Jones particle is not actually inserted. The second step involves the test of several molecular orientations of the true molecule with the center of mass at the location selected in the first step using the Lennard-Jones particle. In this study, we have used 5 trials in the first step and 10 trials in the second step. The acceptance probability of these biased moves is given in references[49] and[50]. For flexible molecules, standard Configurational Bias Monte Carlo (CBMC) has been used[51].

The MC attempt probabilities used for simulations with rigid molecules only are as follow: 0.2975 for translations, 0.2975 for rotations, 0.005 for volume changes and 0.4 for transfers with insertion bias. In case of flexible molecules, the attempt probabilities of the different MC moves are: 0.2 for translations, 0.2 for rotations, 0.2 for configurational-bias regrowth, 0.005 for volume 0.395 for transfers changes and with configurational-bias insertions, The number of MC steps used for equilibration and for production each lies in between 100 and 500 million, one MC step being a single MC move. A total number of 500 water molecules and 50 SO₂ molecules were considered in our MC simulations.

3.2. Force field models

Repulsive-dispersive energy between two i and j force centers is represented as a function of their separation distance using Lennard-Jones (LJ) potential described in equation (2):

$$U_{ij} = U_{rep} + U_{disp} = 4\varepsilon_{ij} \left(\left(\frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - \left(\frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right) \quad (2)$$

where σ and ε represent the LJ parameters. Cross interaction parameters are calculated using Lorentz-Berthelot combining rules. Geometric average for energetic parameters and arithmetic average for diameters are expressed in equations (3) and (4), respectively:

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = \sqrt{\varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j} \tag{3}$$

$$\sigma_{ij} = \frac{\sigma_i + \sigma_j}{2} \tag{4}$$

The Electrostatic energy is computed from the Coulomb law[52]:

$$U_{elec} = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q_i q_j}{r_{ij}} \tag{5}$$

where ε_0 is the vacuum permittivity.

Numerous intermolecular potentials have been used to simulate the behavior of fluids involved in CCUS operations, whether pure compounds such as $SO_2[32,53-57]$, $N_xO_y[58-61]$, $O_2[55,62,63]$, $N_2[55,62,64]$, and Ar[62], or mixtures such as $CO_2+SO_2[56,65]$, $CO_2+O_2[7]$, $CO_2+N_2[7]$ $CO_2+Ar[66]$, with varying associated performances.

The present study is limited to H_2O and SO_2 . Different potential models and their combinations are tested here[53,54,57,67–71] to identify the combination that best agrees with the reference experimental solubility data. The parameters of the considered force fields are reported in Table 1 and

Table 2 for SO_2 and H_2O , respectively. For both molecules, we have tested non-polarizable flexible and rigid force fields including localized or delocalized charges. These models have been selected for their precision in reproducing pure compound properties.

Two families of water forcefields were considered: SPC and TIP4P. SPC/E and SPC/Fw are 3-site models[67,68], with three interaction points associated to the three atoms of the water molecules. The oxygen atom is a LJ center plus a negative charge, whereas the two hydrogen atoms carry the positive charges. On the other hand, TIP4P/2005 and TIP4P-Ew[69–71] are intermolecular potentials with 4-sites. In this case, in addition to the three interaction sites located on the three atoms, a negative point charge is placed on the bisector of the HÔH angle[32] (represented by M). SPC/Fw[68] is a flexible model, whereas all others are rigid.

Concerning the models applied to SO₂, two models are studied. SO₂(1)[54,56,66] is a rigid 4-site model where the negative charges are located on each oxygen atom and a positive point charge is placed on the bisector of the OŜO angle (represented by M) at 0.312 Å from the sulfur atom. SO₂(2)[53] is a flexible 3-site model. In both SO₂ models, in addition to the aforementioned charge distributions, each atom bears a LJ center.

The Lennard-Jones intermolecular energy was computed with a cutoff radius equal to half of the cubic box length, and a classical long-distance correction is applied. According to our simulation conditions, this corresponds to a cutoff value of ~12 Å for the truncation of interactions in the liquid phase. The Ewald summation method is used to calculate long range electrostatic interactions with 7 vectors in each direction of the space and a Gaussian width set to $2\pi/L$, where L is the length of the cubic simulation box.

Table 1: Force field parameters used to model the SO ₂ molecule. σ and ε represent the diameter and the energetic parameter of the LJ
centers located on the S and O atoms, and q stands for the point charges located on S, O or M centers. k _B is Boltzmann constant.

Model	Force center or charge	σ (Å)	$\varepsilon/k_{B}\left(\mathrm{K}\right)$	<i>q</i> (e)	<i>d</i> (S-O)	d(S-M)	OŜO (°)	Туре
SO ₂ (1)[54]	S O M(q+)	3.5830 2.9900 -	126.0800 46.4100 -	-0.4140 0.8280	1.434	0.312	119.5	rigid
SO ₂ (2)[53,57]	S O	3.39 3.05	73.8 79	0.59 -0.295	1.43	-	119.3	flexible

Table 2: Force field parameters used to model the H₂O molecule. σ and ε represent the diameter and the energetic parameter of the LJ potential located on the oxygen atom and q stands for the point charge located on H atoms for positive charges and on O or M center for negative charges.

Models	Force center or charge	σ (Å)	ε/k_B (K)	<i>q</i> (e)	d(O-H)	d(O-M)	HÔH (°)	Туре
SPC/E[67]	O H	3.1655	78.2	-0.8476 0.4238	1	-	109.47	rigid
SPC/Fw[68]	O H	3.16549	78.2653	-0.82 0.41	1.012	-	113.24	flexible
TIP4P/2005[69]	О Н М(<i>q-</i>)	3.1589	93.2 _ _	- 0.5564 -1.1128	0.9572	0.1546	104.52	rigid
TIP4P-Ew[71]	О Н М(<i>q</i> -)	3.16435	81.9		0.9572	0.125	104.52	rigid

4. Experimental Results

4.1. SO₂ Raman Spectra

The reactions of SO_2 in water are given in reaction 1 for the first SO_2 dissociation, and in reaction 2 for the second SO_2 dissociation. In water, SO_2 behaves as a weak acid implying that the speciation in solution will be a function of the pH of the solution [72].

$SO_2 + H_2O \rightleftharpoons HSO_3^- + H^+$	<i>рК_а</i> = 1.81	reaction 1
$HSO_3^- \rightleftharpoons SO_3^{2-} + H^+$	$pK_a = 6.97$	reaction 2

During all the measurements done for SO₂/H₂O mixtures, the peak of SO₂ is always present and no SO₃²⁻ is detected as expected knowing the *pKa* (25 °C) of the two dissociation reactions.



Figure 5: Raman spectrum of SO₂ dissolved in liquid water at 22 $^{\circ}$ C and 4 bar. * Ne lamp

In Figure 5, we can clearly see a broad series of overlapping bands that are decomposed with Gaussian profiles into two main peaks: $1\ 022\ cm^{-1}$ and $1\ 051\ cm^{-1}$. Previous research proves that HSO₃⁻ can exist as isomeric forms in aqueous solutions[73–75]. One isomer contains a proton bound to an oxygen atom that can be represented as (HO)SO₂⁻, and the other isomer contains a proton bound to the sulfur atom represented as (HS)O₃⁻. An overall equilibrium for isomerization can be written as:

$$(HS)O_3^- \rightleftharpoons (HO)SO_2^-$$
 reaction 3

All the peaks corresponding to these isomers are easily distinguished on the Raman spectrum. The H-S bond is found at 2532 cm^{-1} and 1128 cm^{-1} (at 20 °C and 4 bar). The characteristic peak of

(HO)SO₂⁻ isomer is the S-O stretch of H-O-S group at 728 cm⁻¹[75]. The S-O bands at 1 022 cm⁻¹ and 1 051 cm⁻¹ correspond to (HO)SO₂⁻ and (HS)O₃⁻, respectively[76]. It is important to know these reactions because it will help us to determine the solubility of SO₂ based on Raman peak areas. Indeed, Rumpf et al.[30] considered two values of solubilities for SO₂. For "true" values, only SO₂ molality are considered. For "overall" values, HSO₃ and SO_3^{2-} are also considered. For calibrating the Raman data, the "true" values are used as only the main peak of SO2 is used. Also, in the simulation, the formation of HSO_3^- and SO_3^{2-} are not considered. Besides, some spectra show a sign of oxidation by the presence of SO_4^{2-} by a peak at 980 cm⁻¹ [77] corresponding to a limited oxidation of SO₂. The occurrence of an oxidation reaction reduces the solubility values as a part of SO₂ is converted into SO_4^{2-} . Thus, to have an accurate determination of the values, it is essential that no oxidation reaction takes place.

4.2. SO₂ solubility in water

The area of the main SO₂ peak at 1 150 cm⁻¹ and the H-O stretching vibration band of water was used to calculate the Peak Area Ratio $A(SO_2)/A(H_2O)$. The *PAR* is plotted as a function of pressure for different temperatures as reported in Figure 6. The slope of the curve combines the *RDSCS* of the SO₂ and H₂O species and the instrument function[42] (equation 1).



Figure 6: *PAR* as a function of pressure at different temperatures for SO₂ in pure water. Dotted lines are visual guides only.

Using the Raman data and the literature data, it is possible to plot *PAR* as a function of solubility for

each P,T value (Figure 7). The results show a linear correlation between PAR and molality proving the reliability of equation (1).

$$PAR = (0.0319 \pm 0.0005) \ge m_{SO_2}, R^2 = 0.995$$
 (6)

The determination coefficient R^2 is equal to 0.995. The width of the confidence band does not exceed \pm 0.035 in *PAR* scale. The prediction band width is less than \pm 0.091 in *PAR* scale. The light dispersion of the points might be due to the experimental uncertainties (*P*,*T*) or also to the appearance of a new phase as the highest pressure represented for each temperature represents the pressure limits before the appearance of a second SO₂-rich liquid phase.

The extrapolation of the range of calibration is possible in the limit of the linearity of the correlation[78]. It is now possible to estimate the solubility at temperatures not provided in literature using equation (6). The measurements of solubility are limited to the liquid-vapor two-phase domain, i.e., before reaching the triphasic line. The concentration of SO₂ injected in the capillary is also a limiting factor: increasing the concentration of SO₂ might lead to a three-phase system including a SO₂rich liquid phase, a H₂O-rich liquid phase, and a vapor phase or to the liquid-liquid region. On the contrary, reducing the concentration of SO₂ causes the latter to be totally dissolved in water, which leads to a non-linear relationship between PAR and pressure because of a loss of chemical equilibrium between the liquid and the gas phases.



Figure 7: Raman *PAR* as a function of SO₂ solubility[30] in water (mol of SO₂ per kg of water) at different temperatures.

4.3. Effectiveness of *PAR* calibration for other temperatures

The acquisitions of Raman spectra are then run at intermediate temperature values (30 °C and 80 °C) in order to better check the reliability of the linear correlation and to provide new solubility data. Based on equation 6, the experimental data are converted into molar fraction scale at all temperatures in pure water.



Figure 8: Solubility of SO_2 in water (mol of SO_2 per kg of water) as a function of pressure at different temperatures, including new data at intermediate temperatures of 30 °C and 80 °C. Dotted lines are visual guides only.

Figure 8 represents the solubility of SO₂ in water including the new values at 30 °C and 80 °C. The solubility curves are placed in a coherent order between other temperature values. The new curves show the reliability of the correlation method at intermediate temperatures. Now, SO₂ solubility can be determined using equation 6 for all temperature in the range 30 °C – 80 °C.

Monte Carlo simulation results Model comparison without binary interaction parameter

Different MC simulations run for SO₂/H₂O mixtures using the models, as previously described in section 3.2, are presented and compared to the experimental data (Figure 9 and Figure 10). A total of 5 combinations of force fields has been evaluated against experimental data of SO₂ solubility in water at 40 °C: SO₂(1)-TIP4P/2005, SO₂(1)-TIP4P-Ew, SO2(1)-SPC/E, $SO_2(1)$ -SPC/Fw, and $SO_2(2)$ -TIP4P/2005. The mixture is always at its vaporliquid equilibrium. The results show that the combinations $SO_2(1)$ -TIP4P/2005 and $SO_2(2)$ -TIP4P/2005 both underestimate the solubility data. However, using $SO_2(2)$ gives lower solubility data than the values found using the $SO_2(1)$ model. Figure 9 shows the MC simulations run for different water models using $SO_2(1)$ model. The choice of $SO_2(1)$

force field was dictated by the better accuracy of the results.



Figure 9: Molecular simulation data of SO₂ solubility in water using different SO₂ and H₂O models at 40 °C. Dotted lines are visual guides only.



Figure 10: Molecular simulation data of SO_2 solubility in water using different water models at 40 °C ($SO_2(1)$ model is used). Dotted lines are visual guides only.

5.2. Non-zero binary interaction parameter 5.2.1. Temperature-dependent binary interaction parameter

None of the tested model combinations has given quantitative agreement compared to the а experimental data. A possible explanation to this poor quantitative agreement may be related to the use of non-polarizable force fields. Such force fields implicitly account for polarization effects by using adjusted empirical parameters (electrostatic charges and Lennard-Jones parameters). These effective parameters may not be suited for use in other environments, as it is the case when mixtures of different compounds are considered. In order to correct the outcome of the simulation, a binary interaction parameter k_{ij} in the Lorentz-Berthelot mixing rule is introduced. The interaction parameter kij is introduced to improve the modelling of mixture

properties. k_{ij} characterizes the molecular cross interactions between force centers *i* and *j*. Introducing the binary interaction parameter has been shown to have a major impact on phase behavior calculations for different applications[79,80]. The dispersive energy parameter is now described as follows instead of equation (3).

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = \sqrt{\varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j} (1 - k_{ij}) \tag{7}$$

The values of k_{ij} , that can be temperature dependent, can be adjusted to the experimental data of phase equilibria. Here, the k_{ij} values are regressed on experimental solubility data. For each studied temperature, the simulation is run for the highest investigated pressure using different k_{ij} values. The models used for kij estimation are SO₂(1) and TIP4P/2005 for SO₂ and H₂O, respectively. Figure 11 shows the error (difference between the simulated and the experimental SO₂ mole fractions) as a function of the k_{ij} value at T = 40 °C and P = 4.6 bar. The curve intersection with the zero-error value is taken as the optimized k_{ij} parameter for this temperature.



Figure 11: Optimization of the binary interaction parameter at 40 °C. The error value is the difference between the simulated and the experimental SO₂ mole fractions at the studied temperature (40 °C here) and at the highest investigated pressure (4.6 bar here).

Four different temperatures in the range 40 °C – 120 °C have been investigated, leading to the temperature-dependent k_{ij} values plotted in Figure 12. At low temperature, k_{ij} is a decreasing function of temperature. With increasing temperature, the k_{ij} reaches a minimum and then increases. Figure 12 shows that the temperature dependence of the k_{ij} is quadratic.



Figure 12: Temperature dependence of the optimized binary interaction parameters (k_{ij}) calculated as a function of the reduced temperature ($Tr = T / T_{C_{SO_2}}$) corresponding to temperatures of 40 °C, 70 °C, 90 °C and 120 °C. The red dot corresponds to the value at 60 °C estimated by the polynomial regression curve.

To check the reliability of the obtained k_{ij} values in predicting solubility data at other temperatures, a simulation was performed at 60 °C using the binary interaction parameter estimated from the curve in Figure 12 (red point). Figure 13 shows that the prediction accuracy of the model is greatly improved by using the optimized binary interaction parameter.



Figure 13: Comparison of simulation data using zero and nonzero binary interaction parameters to the experimental solubility data at 60 °C. The models used for the mixture are $SO_2(1)$ and TIP4P2005 for SO₂ and H₂O, respectively. Dotted lines are visual guides only.

5.2.2. Constant binary interaction parameter

Even if prediction accuracy is improved by using a temperature-dependent k_{ij} , it is a common practice to use a constant binary interaction parameter in a given temperature range in Equation of State modeling. In this section, the possibility of using a constant average value of k_{ij} (k_{ij} =-0.237), independent of temperature, is evaluated for molecular simulation studies. Figure 14 shows that the use of a constant non-zero k_{ij} provides an accurate description of the equilibrium properties of SO₂/H₂O binary mixture.



Figure 14: Comparison of simulation data using constant and *T*-dependent binary interaction parameters at 60 °C. The models used for the mixture are $SO_2(1)$ and TIP4P2005 for SO_2 and H₂O, respectively. Dotted lines are visual guides only.

6. Discussion

In the current work, Raman spectroscopy along with literature values and molecular simulation calculations are used to determine the solubility of SO_2 in water. This is relevant to fill the lack of thermodynamic information for fluid mixtures representative of systems encountered in CCUS operations.



Figure 15: Comparison of solubility data from Raman Spectroscopy and Monte Carlo simulations at 30 °C and 80 °C. The models used for the mixture are $SO_2(1)$ and TIP4P/2005 for SO_2 and H_2O , respectively. Dotted lines are visual guides only.

Figure 15 shows a comparison of Raman data and MC simulation data at 30 °C and 80 °C. The solubility data are not available in all temperatures and pressure values. However, thanks to the equation derived from *PAR* (equation (6), it is possible now to derive new data which can be compared to the MC molecular simulation.

6.1. Experimental challenges

 SO_2 is a molecule with high reactivity (redox, acid-base, dismutation, etc.)[19,24]. Some chemical reactions in water were identify using Raman spectroscopy. Despite careful preparation of the samples and evacuation under vacuum before loading gas, oxidation reaction took place in some capillaries, producing SO_4^{2-} ions. Bisulfite ions were also detected in some samples (reaction 1).

Besides, due to the interaction between the previously used cyanoacrylate glue and SO_2 , the capillary is glued to the stainless tube using epoxy resin. Indeed, the very first experiments done in the laboratory showed that SO_2 reacted with cyanoacrylate glue which was observed by a quick loss of pressure in the system in less than one hour. The new method shows a good reliability for preventing any gas leak without observed contamination by the glue but the application of the glue on the capillary is more challenging with the epoxy resin than with the cyanoacrylate glue.

The extrapolation from the linearity of the correlation between PAR and solubility is possible except for any change of phases or the occurrence of an oxidation reaction and the appearance of sulfates. Therefore, it is necessary to carefully check the phases in equilibrium before and after spectrum acquisition by optical observation and to analyze the spectra during data acquisitions to identify undesired reactions.

6.2. SO₂ solubility in water

Table 3: Molar fraction of SO₂ in water as a function of pressure and temperature from molecular simulation calculations, Raman spectroscopy and Rumpf data[30]. Raman data are given with a standard uncertainty of 1.6%

		Molar Fraction					
T/°C	P / bar	Rumpf et al. [30]	Raman Spectroscopy	МС			
	0.356	0.0083	0.0075	0.014 ± 0.003			
	0.756	0.0199	0.0175	I			
	1.446	0.0355	0.0324	I			
20°C	1.623	0.0423	0.0364	0.046 ± 0.005			
	1.758	0.0446	0.0386	Г			
	2.418	0.0664	0.0548	$0.066 {\pm} 0.002$			
	3.076	0.0925	0.0717	$0.094{\pm}0.002$			
	0.5	I	0.0087	I			
	1	I	0.0169	0.022 ± 0.002			
30%C	2	Г	0.0366	$0.041 {\pm} 0.003$			
30°C	2.5	Ι	0.0461	Ι			
	3	I	0.0552	$0.053 {\pm} 0.007$			
	4	Ι	0.0731	$0.080 {\pm} 0.007$			
	0.488	0.0056	0.0047	0.0064±0.000 1			
	0.545	0.0064	0.0059	I			
	1.141	0.0148	0.0150	Ι			
	1.314	0.0173	0.0178	Ι			
	1.537	0.0204	0.0225	$0.024{\pm}0.004$			
40°C	1.966	0.0260	0.0273	Ι			
	2.979	0.0420	0.0417	$0.046 {\pm} 0.008$			
	4.001	0.0587	0.0551	I			
	4.259	0.0650	0.0593	П			
	4.409	0.0666	0.0613	п			
	4.603	0.0714	0.0672	0.069 ± 0.006			
	1.377	0.0097	0.0097	$0.012 {\pm} 0.001$			
	2.143	0.0163	0.0168	0.020 ± 0.002			
	2.161	0.0161	0.0172	п			
	3.64	0.0300	0.0310	$0.031 {\pm} 0.005$			
60°C	4.838	0.0424	0.0393	Г			
	5.448	0.0490	0.0425	0.049 ± 0.006			
	5.688	0.0521	0.0450	I			
	6.43	0.0607	0.0532	0.061 ± 0.009			
	8.06	0.0838	0.0705	0.079 ± 0.008			
	1	Ι	0.0030	I			
	2	Ι	0.0081	0.009±0.001			
	3	Г	0.0131	П			
	4	I	0.0180	0.023±0.002			
	5	I	0.0241	Ι			
80°C	6	п	0.0299	0.035±0.003			
000	7	I	0.0372	I			
	8	I	0.0440	0.043±0.002			
	9	I	0.0520	I			
	10	I	0.0589	0.060±0.005			
	11	п	0.0652	п			
	12	I	0.0711	$0.078 {\pm} 0.007$			

The experimental data points at 40°C are compared with experimental results of different studies [21,23,25,27,28]. The comparison between the experimental values taken from the literature and this work at 40°C shows very good agreement as shown in Figure 16. This agreement demonstrates the suitability of the experimental methodology of the present study for Vapor-Liquid equilibria investigations.



Figure 16: Comparison of values for sulfur dioxide solubility in water at 40°C [21,23,25,27,28]. Dotted lines are visual guides only.

Solubility depends on pressure and temperature. The results show a decrease of solubility when temperature increases and an increase with increasing pressure (Figure 6). The effect of pressure and temperature is similar for some gases such as CO_2 and H_2S . At higher pressures, SO_2 *PAR* (consequently solubility in water) showed a change in slope which is due to the change of phase at higher pressures. The same behavior has been observed for $CO_2[81]$ and $H_2S[82]$.

Raman results and MC simulation showed a better agreement when adding a binary interaction parameter. Temperature-dependent and constant k_{ij} values showed as good results for the whole studied P,T range. This demonstrates the transferability of the parameterization under the investigated conditions.

6.3. Liquid-Liquid phase

To study the phase composition of the liquidliquid SO₂/H₂O binary system, we propose the use of the binary interaction parameter previously determined for this system at lower pressure conditions where vapor-liquid equilibrium occurs. Previous molecular simulation studies were already conducted in the liquid-liquid domain without the use of binary interaction parameters[32]. However, the obtained SO_2 content of the water-rich branch of the liquid-liquid domain was slightly underestimated by molecular simulations compared to the experimental values[83]. The combination of $SO_2(1)/TIP4P/2005$ was used as well for studying the liquid-liquid phase.

In a first step, only a constant binary parameter $(k_{ij}$ =-0.237) is used. The results are shown in Table 4 where L1 stands for H₂O-rich liquid. Using a constant binary interaction parameter shows better results in the liquid-liquid region for the solubility of SO₂ in the H₂O-rich phase compared to the simulations run without introducing k_{ij} values[32].

Table 4: Phase composition for the SO_2+H_2O binary systems at 50 °C where L1stands for the liquid H₂O-rich phase.

D	Molar fraction of SO ₂			
Pressure/ bar	Sayegh et al.[83]	MC k_{ij} =-0.237		
	L1	L1		
30	0.068	0.091±0.006		
50	0.070	$0.084{\pm}0.004$		

7. Conclusion

To ensure the long-term CO₂ storage under safe and sustainable conditions, it is mandatory to take the co-injected gases into consideration when designing and processing the capture, transport, and storage. New solubility data for SO₂ were provided using the linear relationship between Raman and literature data. The solubility of SO₂ in water was also investigated by means of molecular simulation techniques, which have been proven as valuable complementary approaches to experimental measurements. The new calibration of vapor-liquid data using binary interaction parameters showed a good agreement with the experimental data. The new data of solubility in aqueous solutions can be used to fit equations of state and to implement the geochemical codes used to simulate water/gas/rock interactions in the case of the geological storage of CO₂ with SO₂. FSCC technique appears as a suitable technique to fill the lack of information. The experimental device will be used in further studies to measure the solubility of gas mixtures containing CO_2 and annex gases such as NO, H_2S or SO_2 , controlling phase transitions by optical microscopic observations as well as chemical speciation and equilibria by Raman spectroscopy.

Acknowledgement

This work was partially supported by INSU CESSUR grant and Carnot Icéel grant (FOMICRO). A special acknowledgement goes to IFPEN and the University of Paris-Saclay for providing the GIBBS MC code. High Performance Computing resources were partially supplied by the EXPLOR centre hosted by the University of Lorraine.

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