

# simplified correlations for burning velocity of gaseous fuel-air mixtures

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Predictions and comparisons for Hydrogen and Syngas compositions

Issues related to inadequate "performance" of correlations

Summary

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# Introduction

Measurement of burning velocities of gaseous fuel-air mixtures has been the subject of study for over five decades and a recent review by Konnov et al (2018) that has covered references on the subject. More than thousand researchers have been involved.

The above review and several other papers contain data comparisons for many fuel-air mixtures from various sources using a number of different techniques.

Also are contained predictions using premixed flame code (at least three codes) with reaction kinetics from different sources.

The dependences on initial temperature and pressure are extracted for the exponents on initial temperature and pressure.

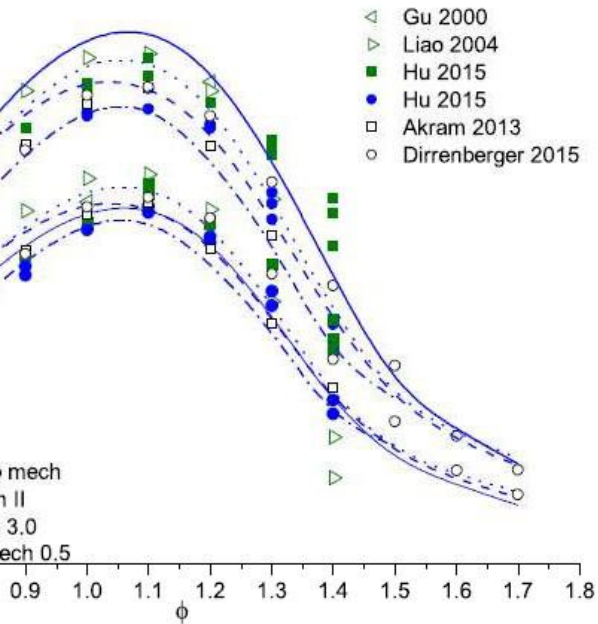
There are many correlations for each of the fuels including straight chain hydrocarbons.

What appears clear from this paper is that the data show differences arising out of different researchers, different apparatus and schemes used for deduction for most fuels, the differences being about  $\pm 5\%$  for standard fuels and more close to  $\pm 10\%$  for most other fuels.

While it is not obvious why the subject has received (or should receive) such an enhanced degree of interest on the part of researchers (and journals), this feature was what drew attention

# ...Motivation

From Konnov, et al, 2018



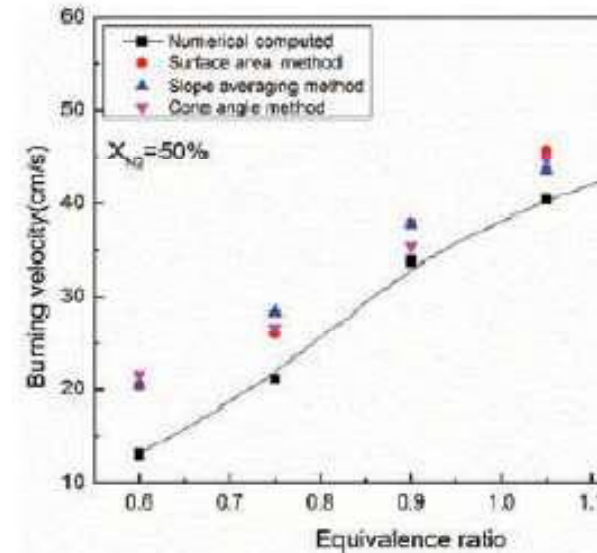
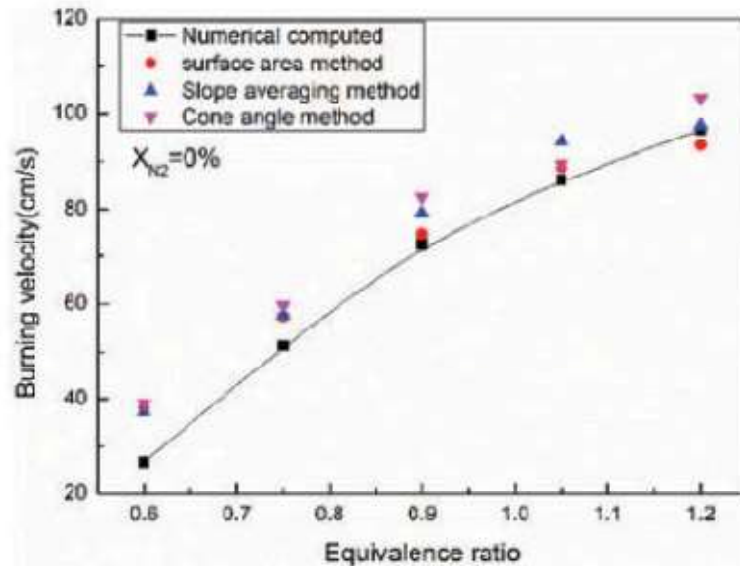
It should be noted, the scatter in the experimental data and the differences in the predictions by various models (with different mechanisms and codes) is about 7%.

It is not easy to swear by theory (with complex chemistry and diffusion models) or experiment easily.

Instead of these, it was thought:

It might be useful if simpler correlations can be developed for a range of fuels together by examining the basic parameters for the variations with equivalence ratio ( $\phi$ ), and initial temperature ( $T_{ini}$ )? The influence of pressure effects could also be simplified

From: Wu et al, 2018



CH <sub>4</sub>	H <sub>2</sub>	CO	CO <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>
%	%	%	%	%
9.8	47.2	27	16	0
8.33	40.12	22.95	13.6	15
6.37	30.68	17.55	10.4	35
4.9	23.6	13.5	8	50

The calculations seem to under-predict significantly for nearly all compositions at lower equivalence ratios.

...the numerical simulation was conducted with GR-3 mechanism through using a premix code like PRO to predict the burning velocity.

# No other correlations? Curvefits?

Dong et al (2010) have set out a correlation as follows.

Basing on the experimental data, fitting curves of laminar flame speeds for H<sub>2</sub>/air mixtures and NG/air mixtures are drawn in Figs. 5 and 6. The formulas for calculating laminar flame speed of H<sub>2</sub>/air and NG/air mixtures are given in Eqs. (4) and (5):

$$S_{H_2} = -1.11019 + 4.65167\phi - 1.44347\phi^2 + 0.04868\phi^3, \quad (\phi = 0.8 - 2.1), R^2 = 0.993; \quad (4)$$

$$S_{NG} = -0.00075 + \frac{0.1352}{4 \times (\phi - 1.04072)^2 + 0.34623}, \quad (\phi = 0.8 - 2.1), R^2 = 0.983. \quad (5)$$

To calculate the laminar flame speed of H<sub>2</sub>/NG/air mixtures, we define  $(S_x - S_{NG}) / (S_{H_2} - S_{NG})$  as laminar flame speed increment. Here,  $S_x$  denotes the laminar flame speed at  $x\%$  volumetric fraction of H<sub>2</sub>. Figure 7 illustrates the increments of the laminar flame speed against volumetric fraction of H<sub>2</sub> for H<sub>2</sub>/NG/air mixtures. The correlation between the increment of laminar flame speed and volumetric fraction of H<sub>2</sub> can be fitted as formula (6):

$$\frac{S_x - S_{NG}}{S_{H_2} - S_{NG}} = 0.00221 + 0.009 \exp\left(\frac{\phi}{21.30807}\right), \quad R^2 = 0.996. \quad (6)$$

Using Eqs. (4)–(6), the laminar flame speed at different volumetric fraction of H<sub>2</sub> and given equivalence ratio can be easily calculated.

The number of significant digits following the decimal point in the curve fits for a quantity that is about 5 to 10 % accurate is worrisome. - also too specific

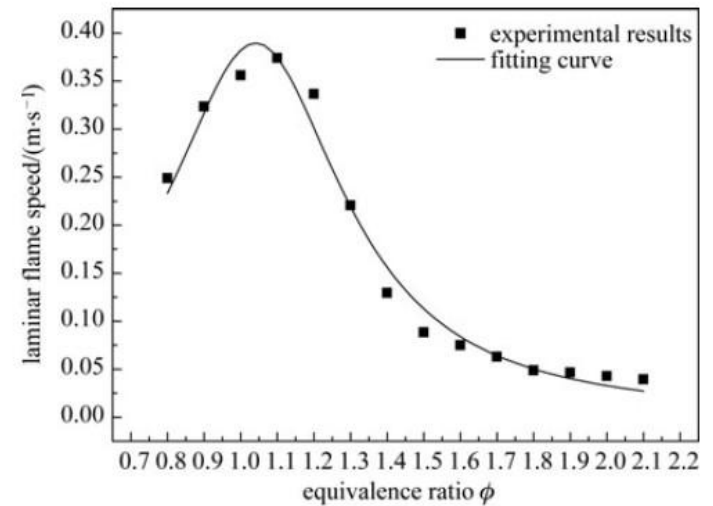
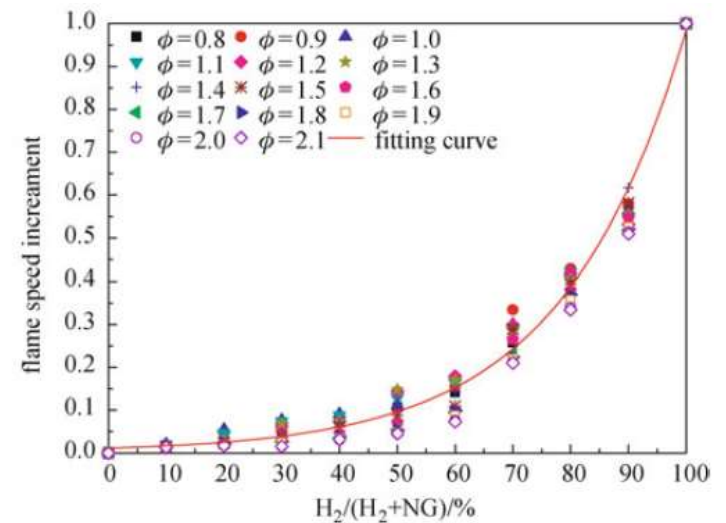
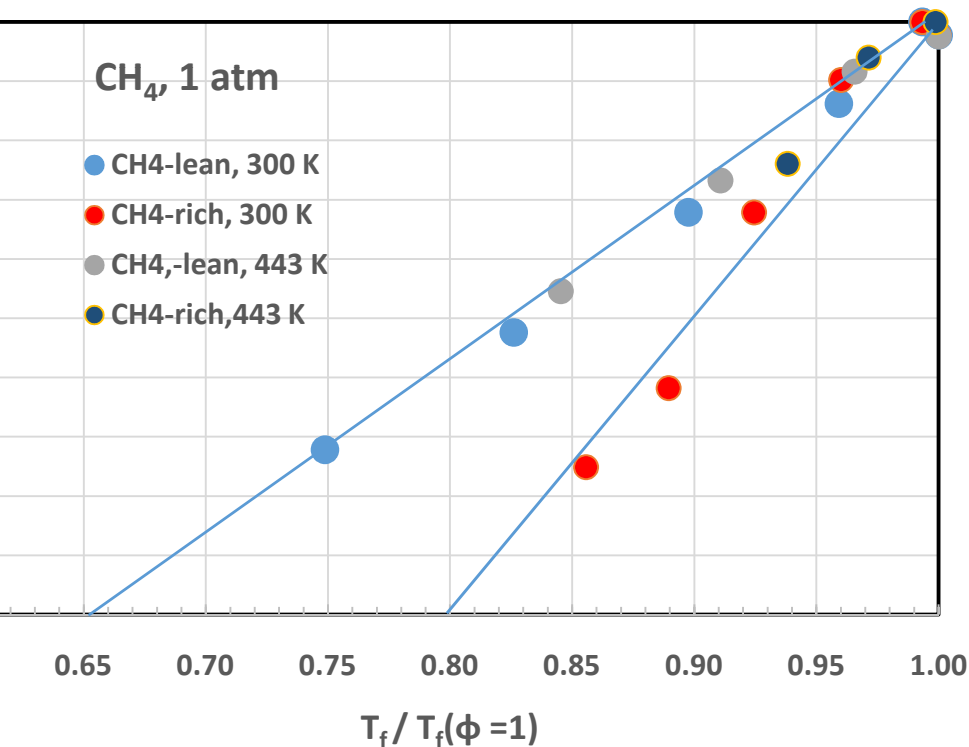


Fig. 6 Fitting curve of laminar flame speed versus equivalence ratio for NG



# Methodology for the simplified correlation - 1

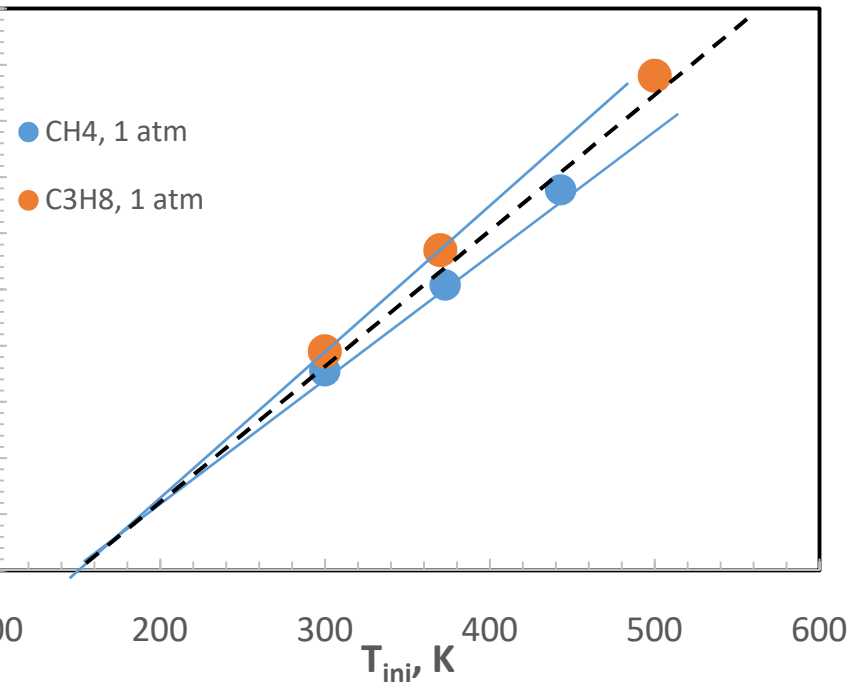
burning rate depends on the adiabatic flame temperature ( $T_{f, ad}$ ) and so, the crucial dependence of the burning rate variation with equivalence ratio ( $\phi$ ) is related to the variation of  $T_{f, ad}$  with  $\phi$ . This equilibrium thermochemistry dependent and not rate dependent. It is thought that if this could be factored in, simpler correlations of *greater generality* can be obtained. Finding a dimensionless dependence between  $S_u/S_u(\phi = 1)$  and  $T_f/T_f(\phi = 1)$  was thought first appropriate.



- The dependence is linear
- The constant slope is different for lean and rich cases
- It is inferred that the effect of flame temperature on burning rate in rich cases can be different from the lean as the role of flame temperature is more involved in rich mixtures.
- The fact that the behavior is linear, but with different slopes, is factored into the correlation.
- It is noted that the burning velocity peaks at a rich equivalence ratio and hence may bring in some inaccuracies in the simplified correlation.
- Such a behavior is taken valid for all hydrocarbons & ...

# Methodology for the simplified correlation - 2

Temperature dependence is treated by plotting the burning velocity at  $\phi = 1$  as a function of initial temperature




- This behavior is linear and can be described by a simple relationship.
- It is inferred that the relationship of  $S_u$  with  $T_{f,c}$  reduces to this relationship after suitable linearization.
- The dependence on pressure has been presented in Konnov et al (2018) for a number of fuel-air mixtures (see for instance Fig. 40 of their paper).
- The variation set out here from different sources shows a complex variation over the equivalence ratio.

It is assumed that for the present purposes of getting an overall correlation, it is appropriate to choose a single pressure index for the pressure index.

A pressure index of - 0.3 is chosen for all straight-chain HCs after checking out the value for minimum error

Therefore the correlation is set out as

$$Su \text{ (cm/s)} = 35.6 p^{-0.3} \left( \frac{T_f}{T_{f,\max}} - C \right) / (1-C) \left[ \frac{(T_{ini} - 150)}{150} \right] \left[ 1 + 0.3 \left( \frac{M_f}{16-1} \right) \exp\{-0.8 * (\frac{M_f}{16-1})\} \right]$$

dependences on   $p$   $\phi$   $T_{ini}$  *Fuel*

$p$  = pressure (atm),  $T_f$  and  $T_{f,\max}$  are the adiabatic flame temperatures at any  $\phi$  and at  $\phi = 1$  (K), and constant = 0.65 for  $\phi < 1$  and 0.8 for  $\phi > 1$ .

The stoichiometric burning velocity of  $CH_4$ -air is taken as 35.6 cm/s. This is the basic burn rate of all straight hydrocarbons considered here (Acetylene excluded)

The dependence with respect to equivalence ratio is obtained through the dependence on the adiabatic flame temperature (that can easily be obtained online from NASA CEA code for any condition of relevance here).

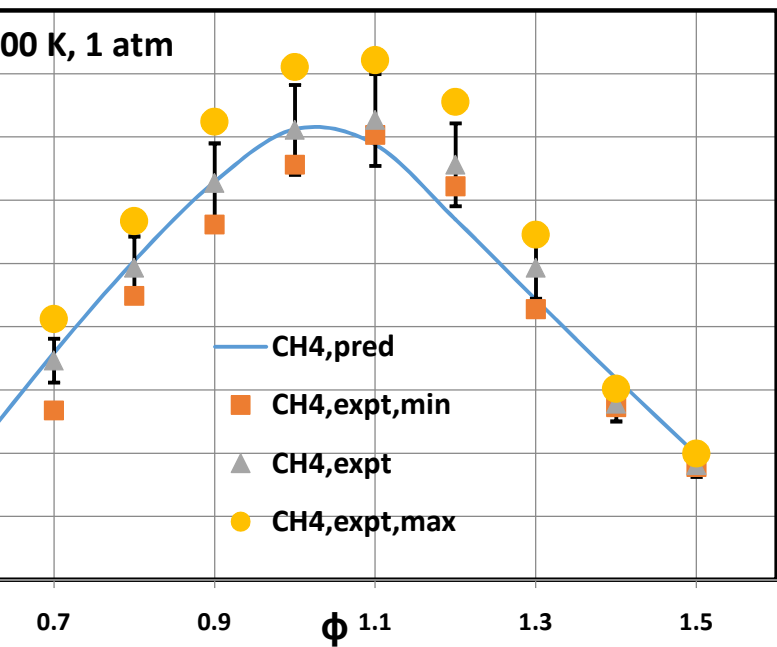
In an examination of the data of peak burning velocities of higher hydrocarbons it is found that it increases from ethane, propane and butane to about 40 cm/s and settles down for octane at 35 cm/s. While once can argue that the differences are small, the term within the flower brackets accounts for this observation.

predictions depend on the above equation (No other constants introduced).

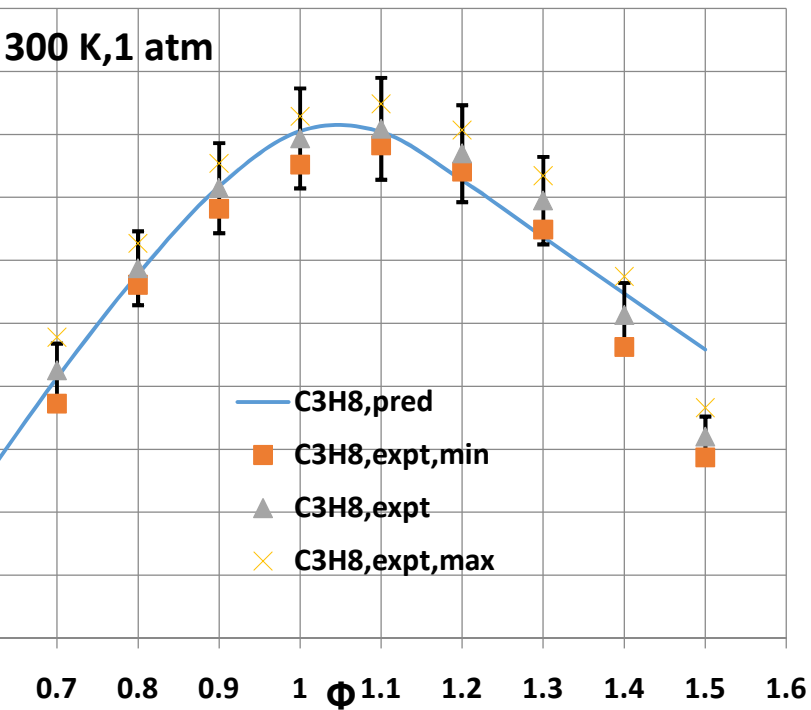
# Predictions and comparisons Hydrocarbons & Alcohols

The basis of experimental data is: Konov et al, 2018

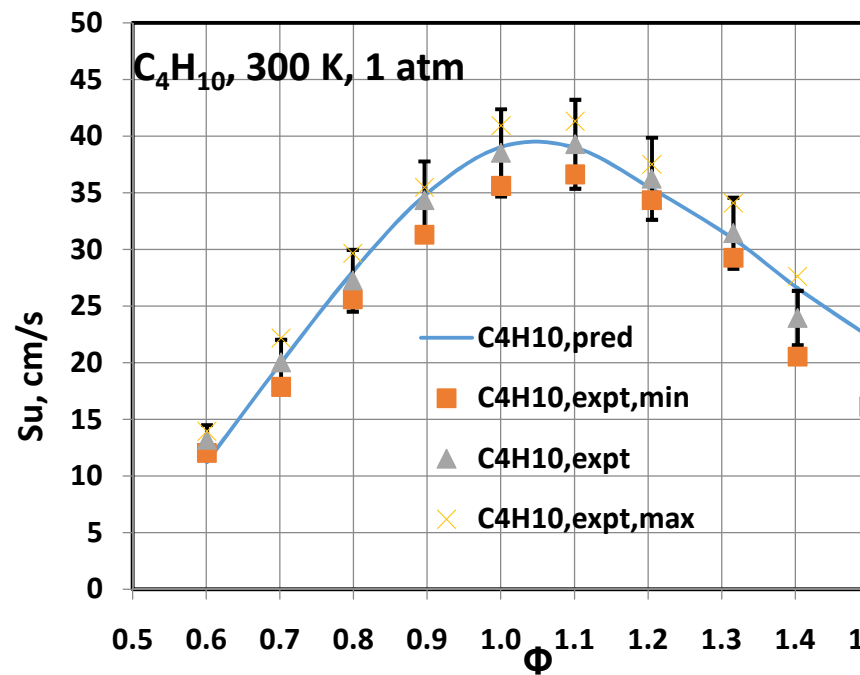
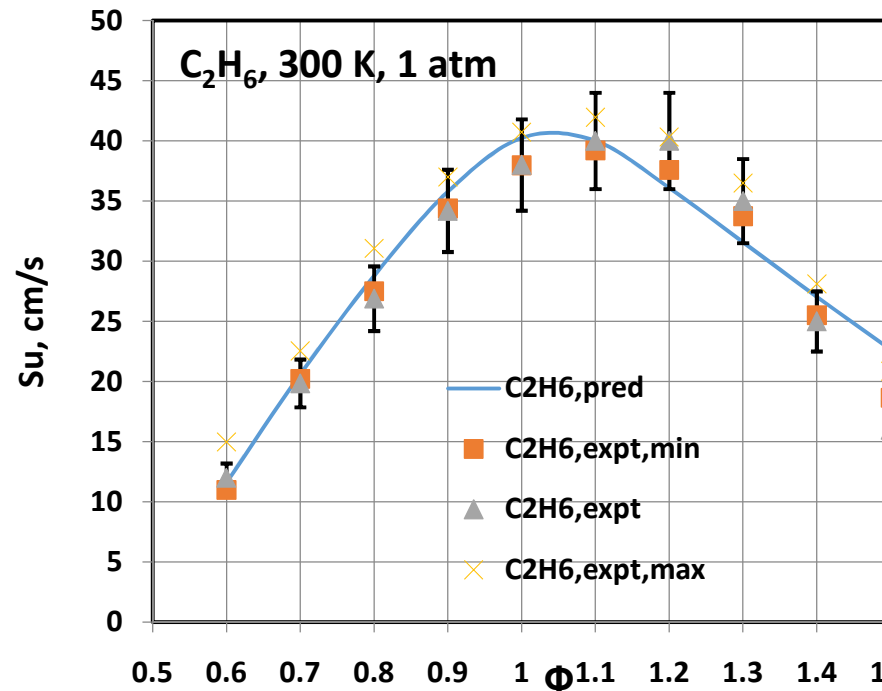


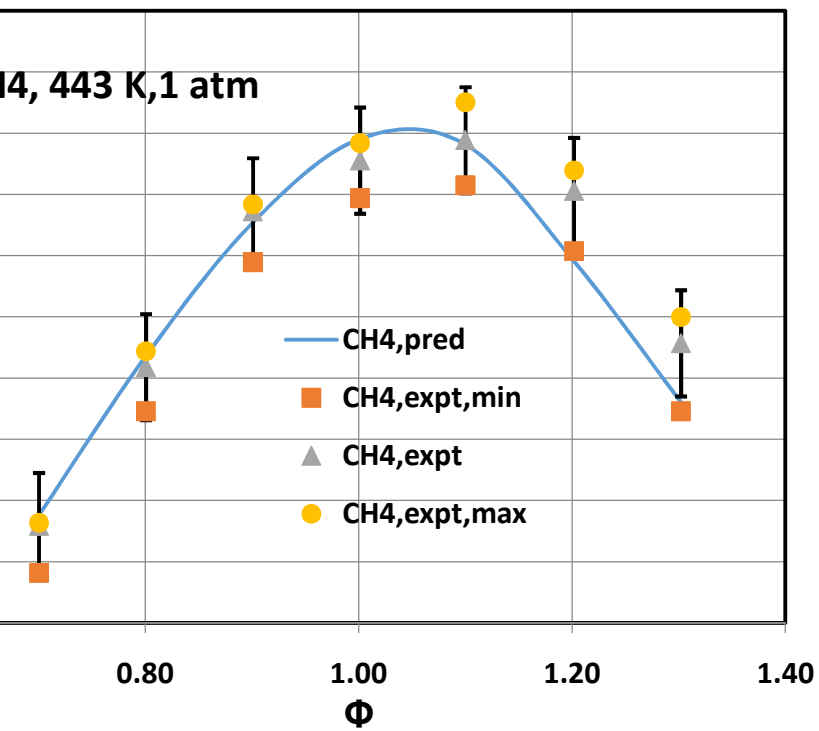
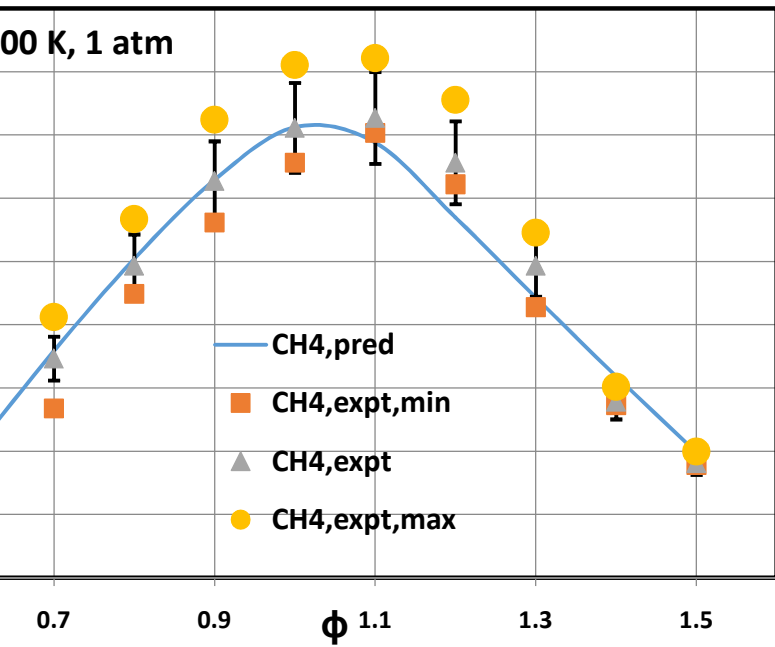


Hydrocarbons  
at  
P = 1 atm,  
T<sub>ini</sub> = 300 K



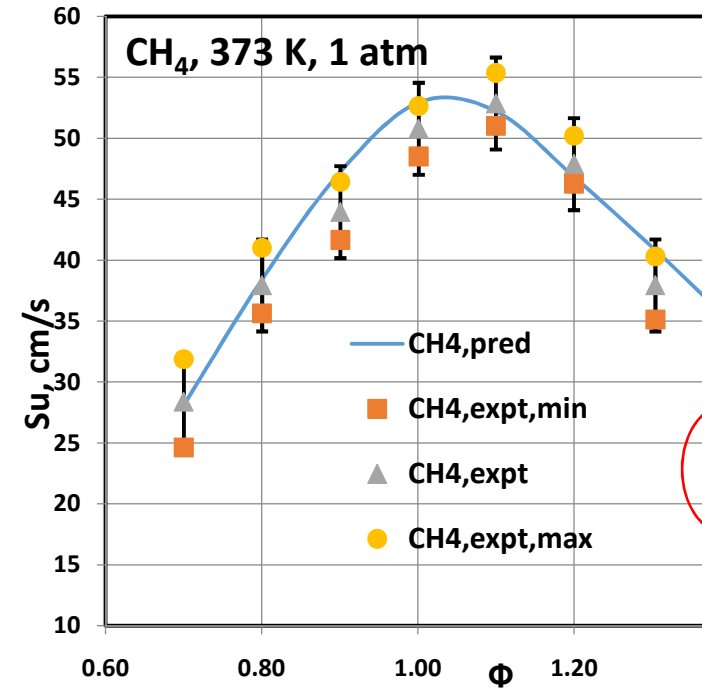
Comparisons  
considered  
satisfactory

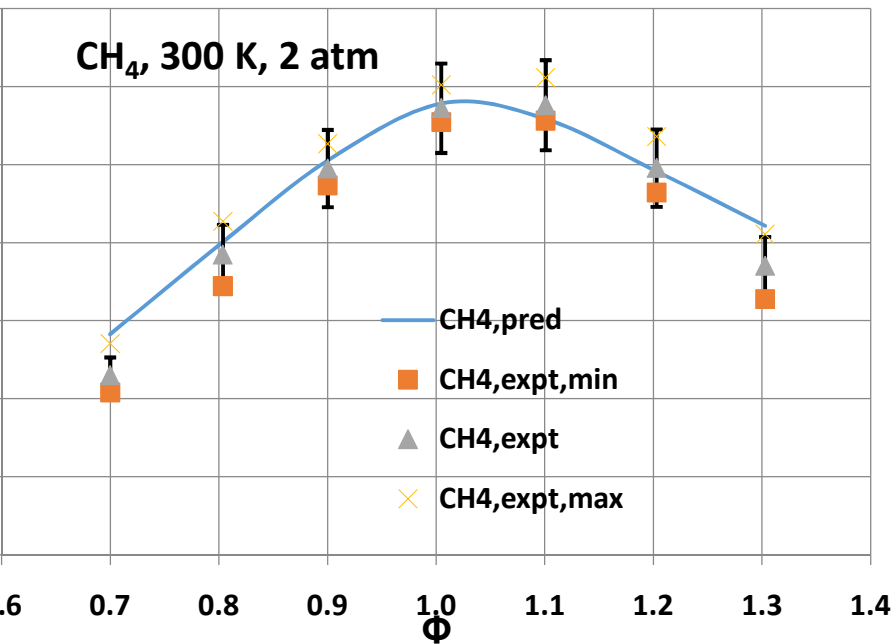




CH<sub>4</sub> at  
 p = 1 atm  
 but increasing T<sub>ini</sub>

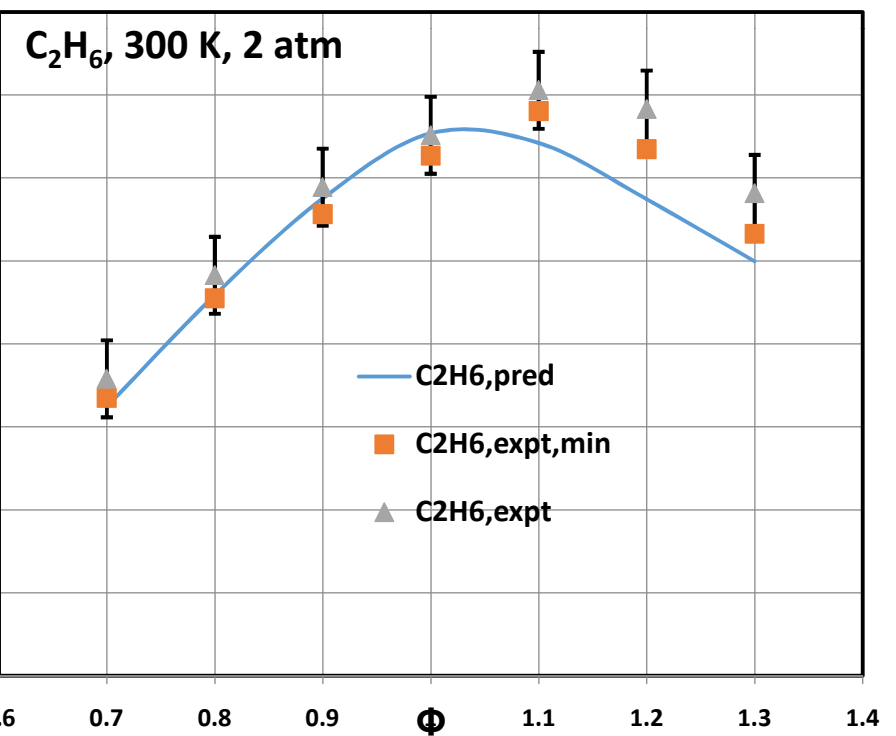
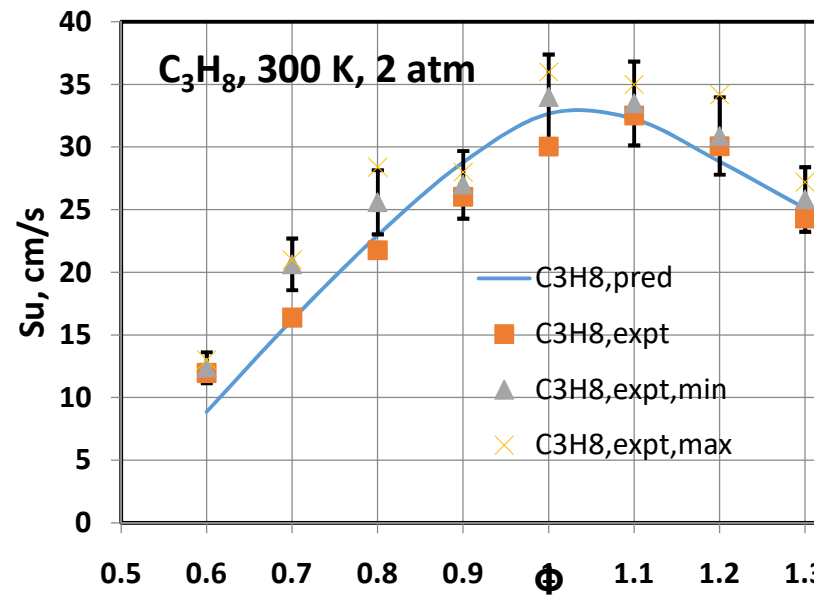
Comparisons  
 considered  
 satisfactory





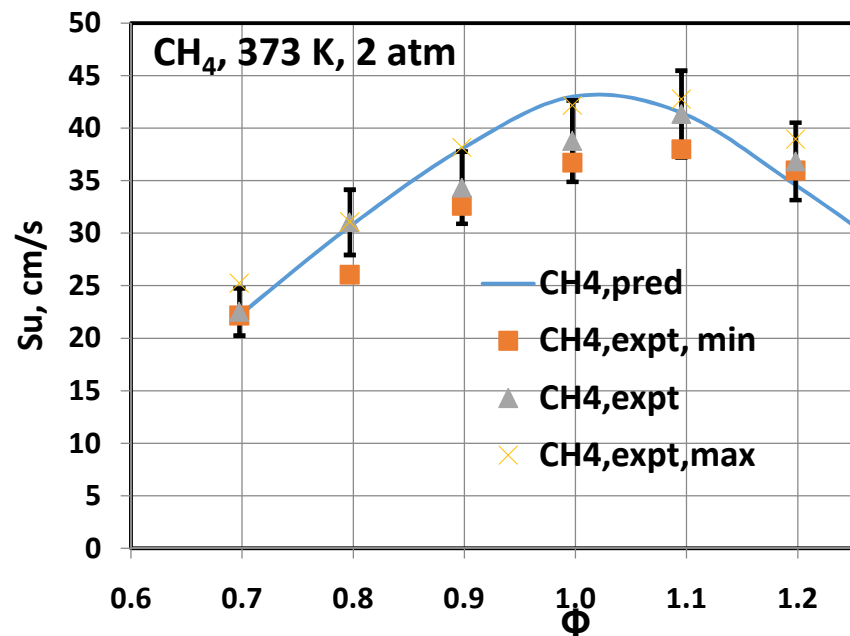
Hydrocarbons  
p = 2 atm,

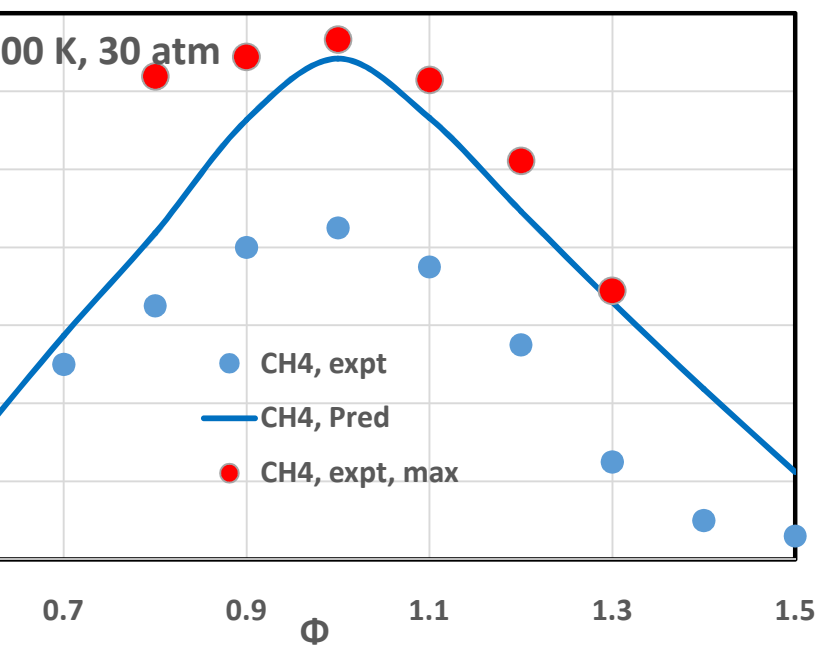
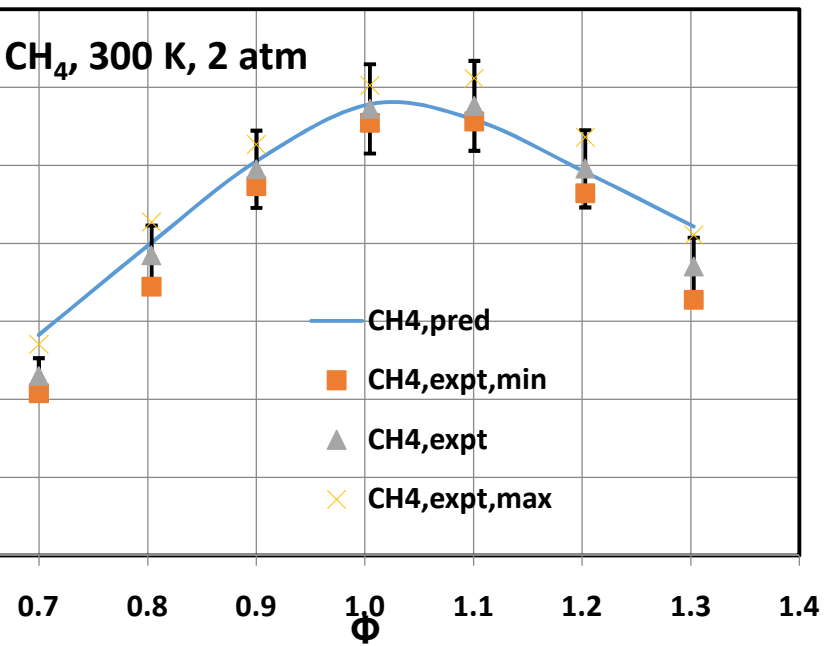
T<sub>ini</sub> = 300 K  
(& 373 K)



C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>  
predictions  
on the rich  
side are not  
all that good

Is  
experimental  
data good?

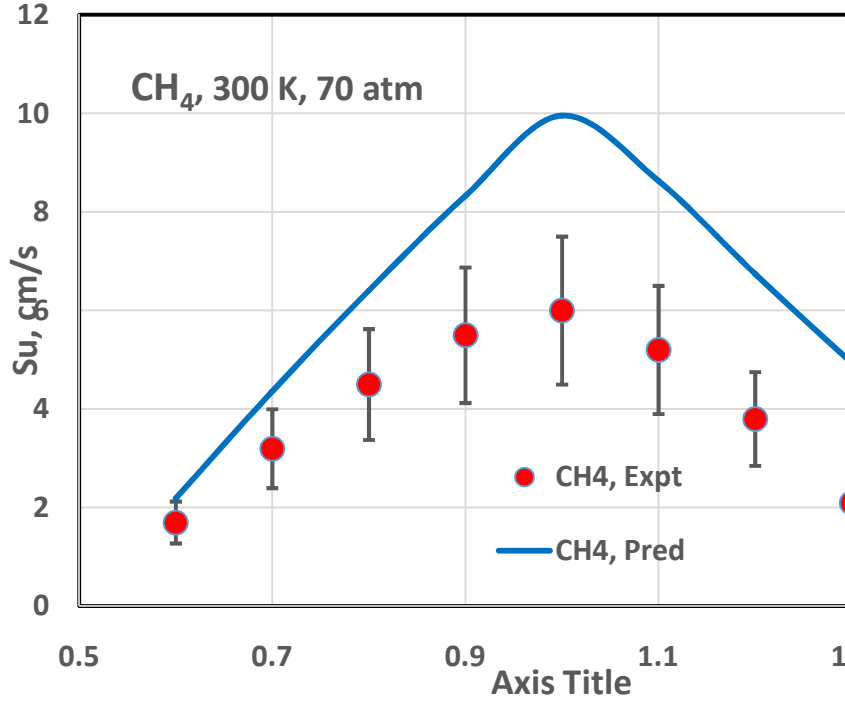
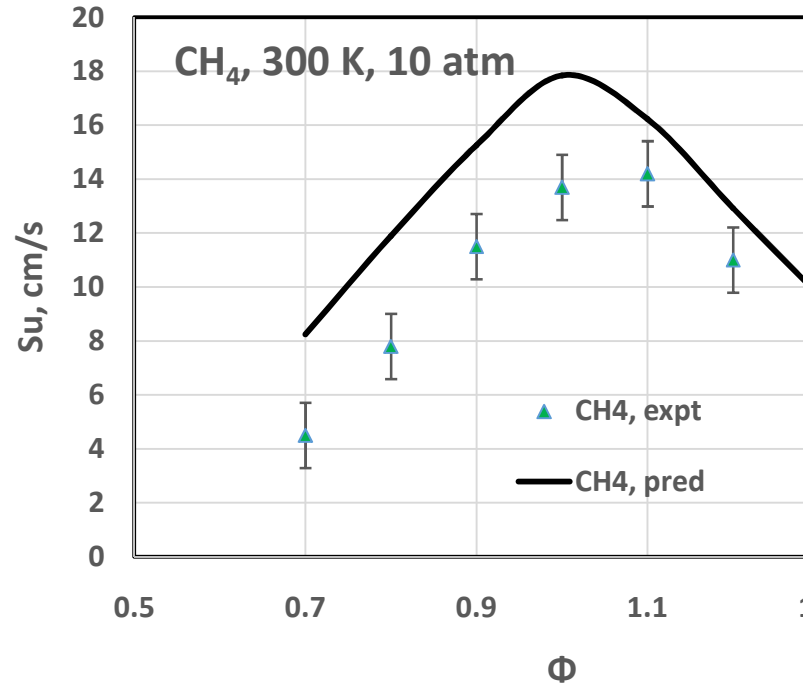


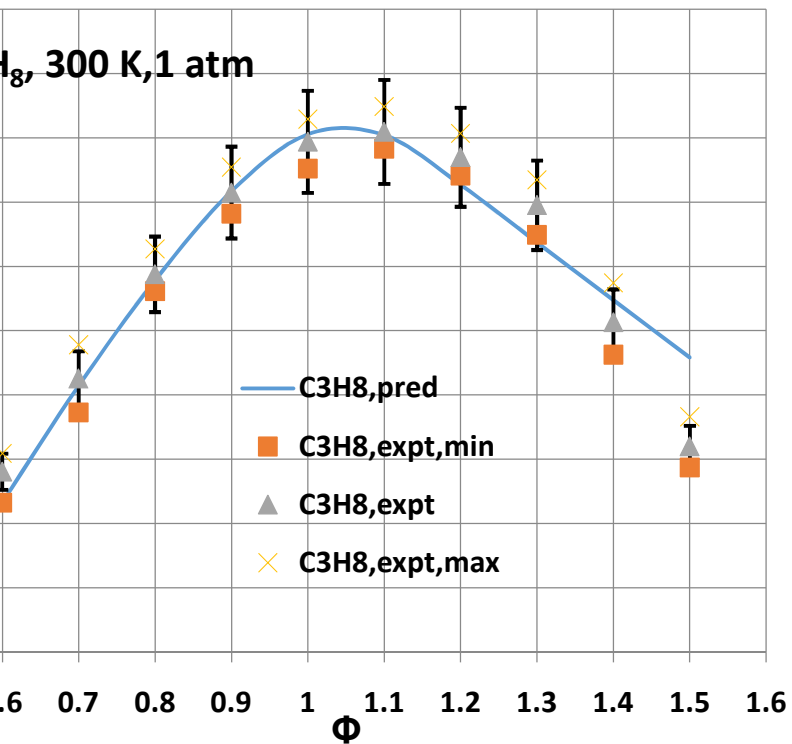


**Methane**  
 $T_{ini} = 300 \text{ K}$   
 $P = 2 \text{ to } 70 \text{ atm}$

Predictions at higher pressures do not seem good. But the data quality also does not seem good.

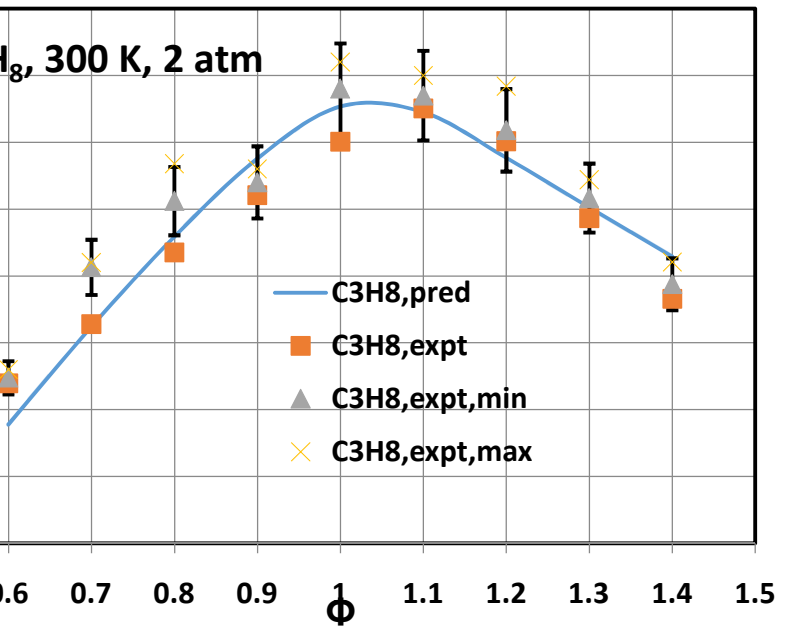
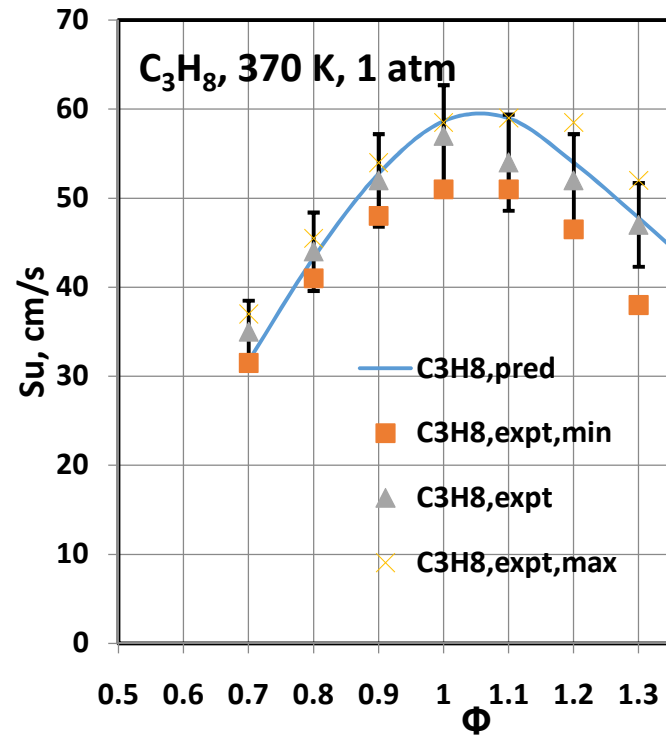
Perhaps these measurements have inherent difficulties



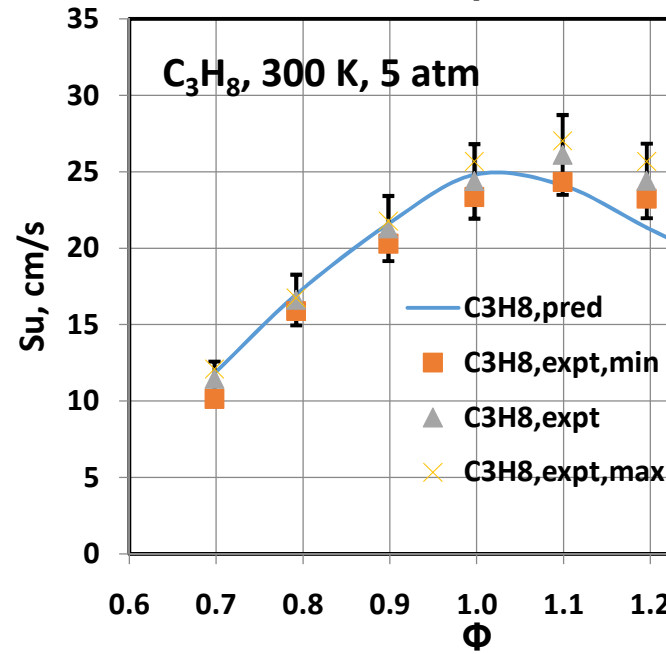


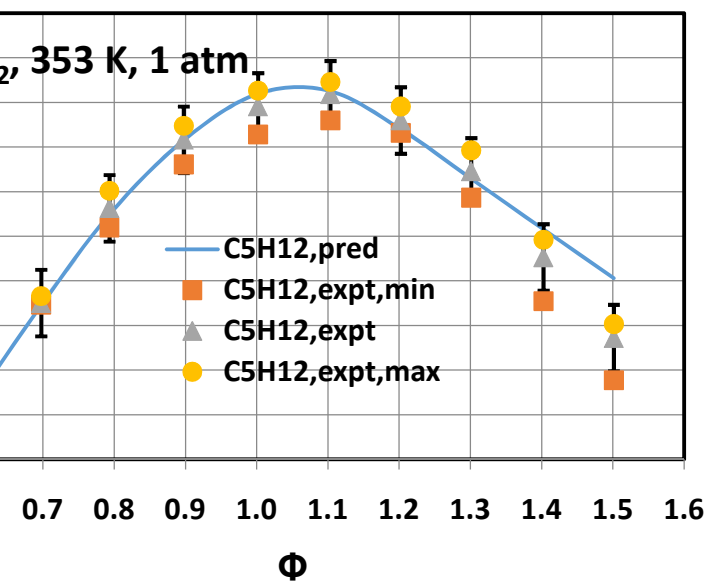
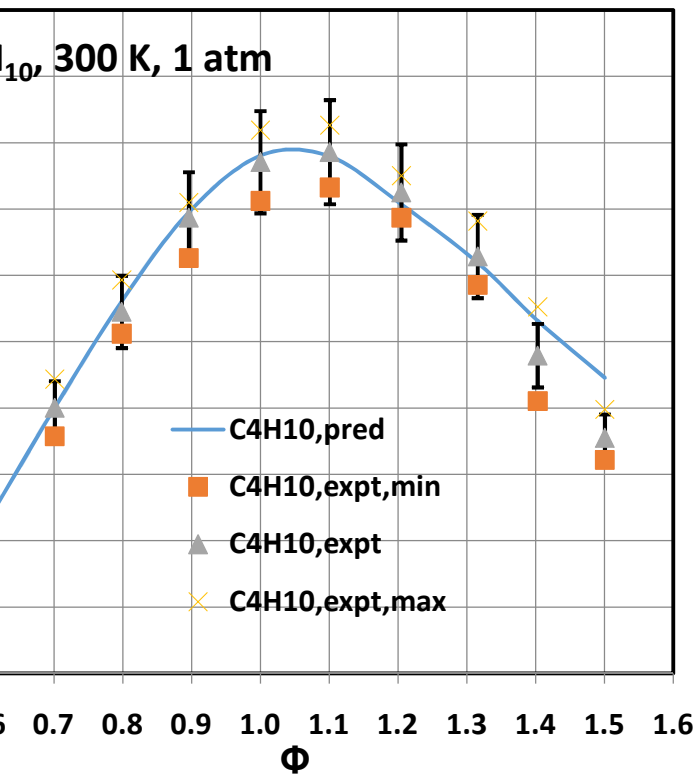
Propane at 300, 370 K,  
1 atm

300 K, 2 and 5 atm



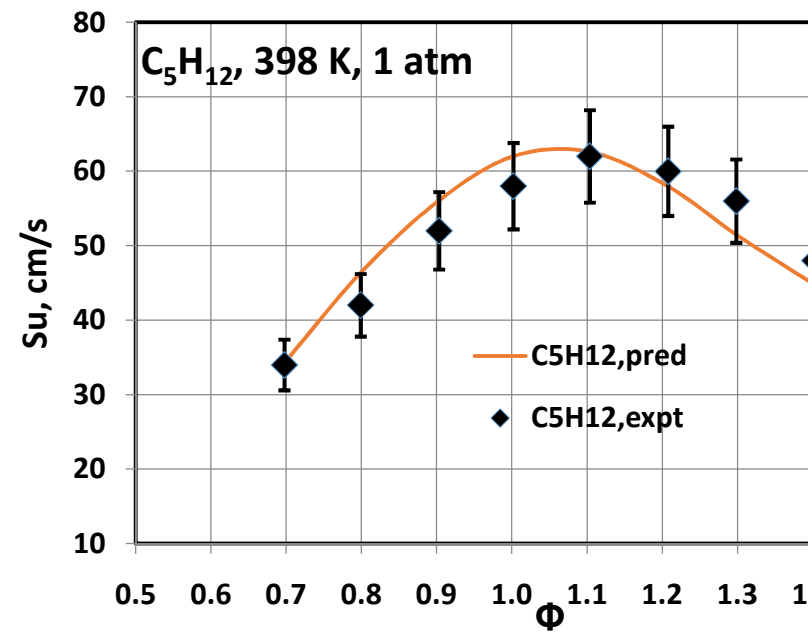
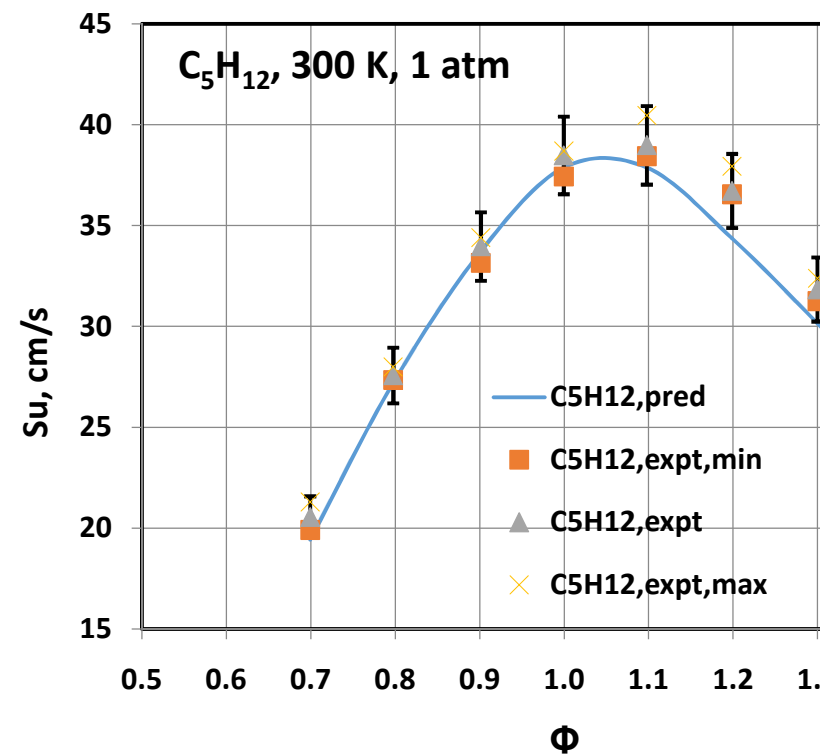
Comparisons  
are satisfactory

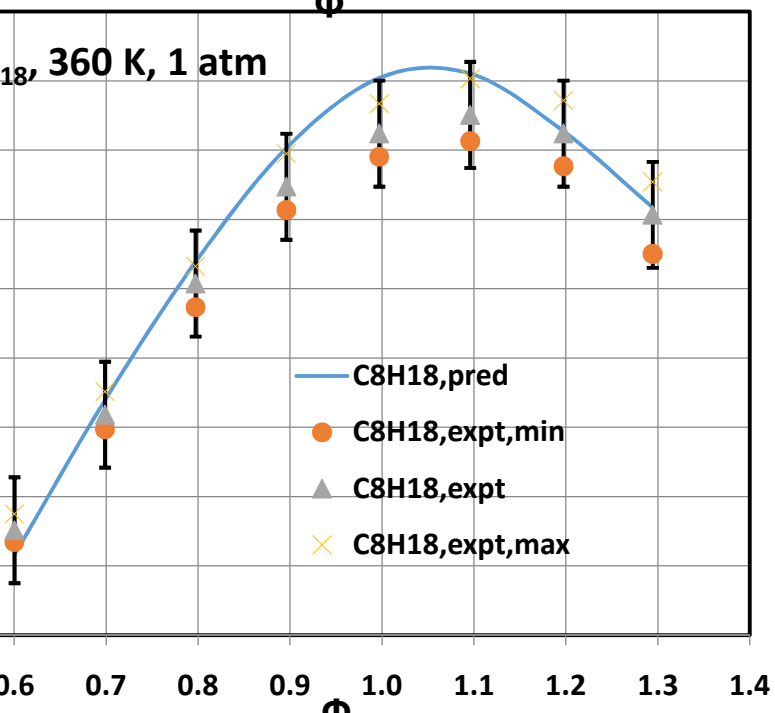
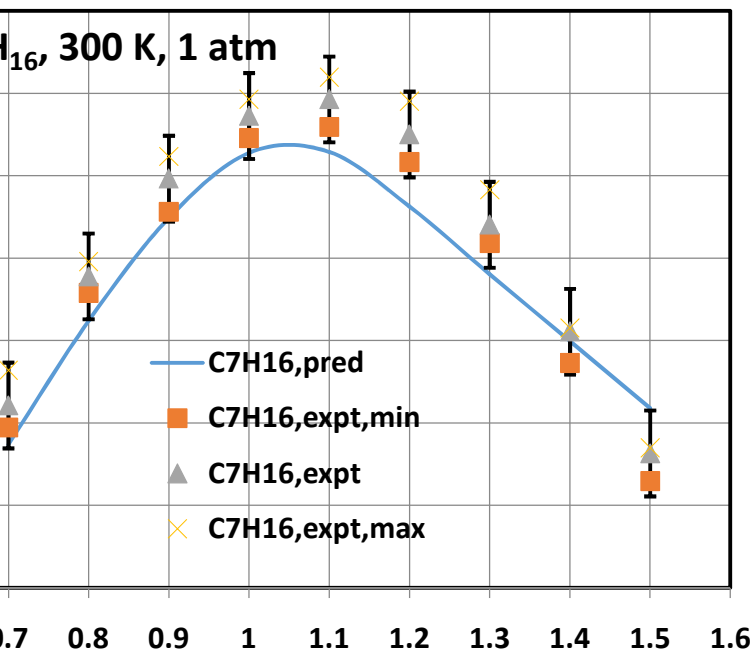




Butane and Pentane at 1 atm different  $T_{ini}$

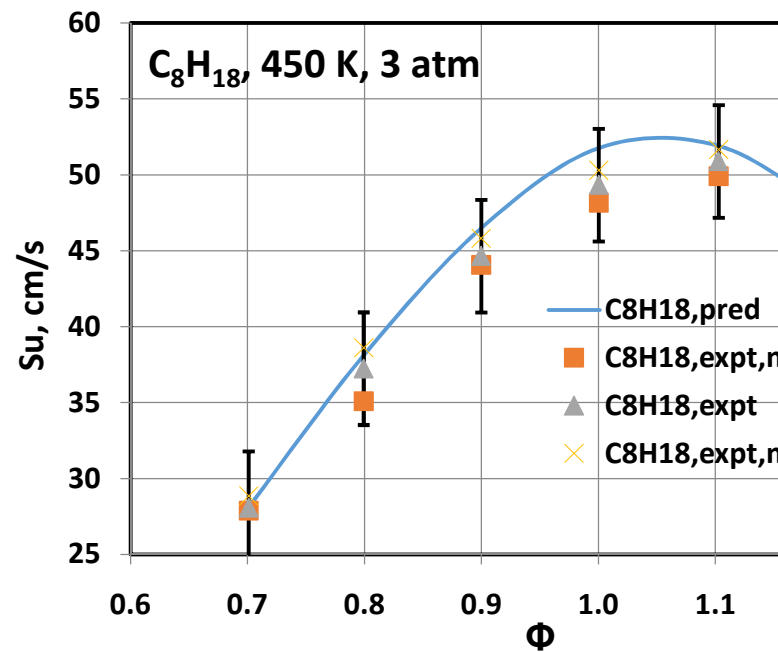
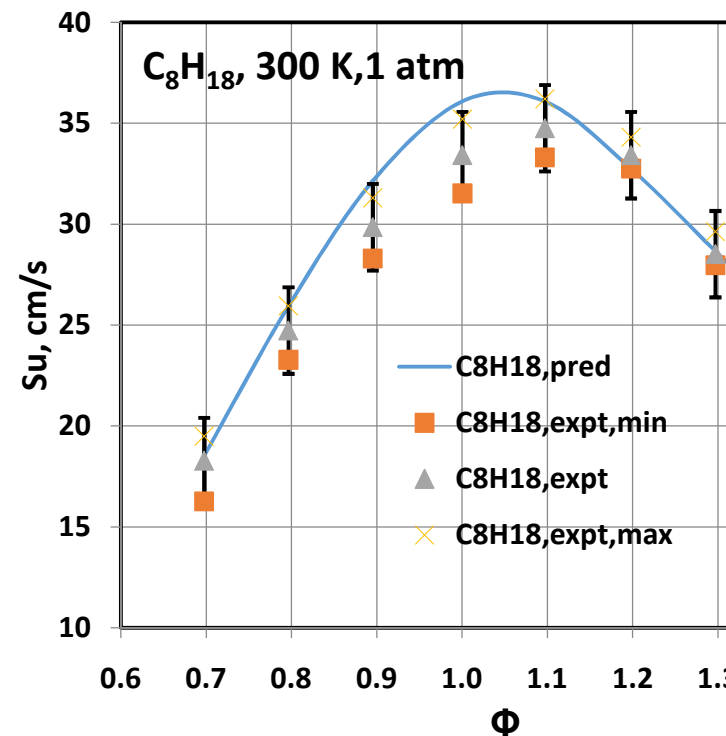
Comparisons are better at lean conditions Than under rich conditions

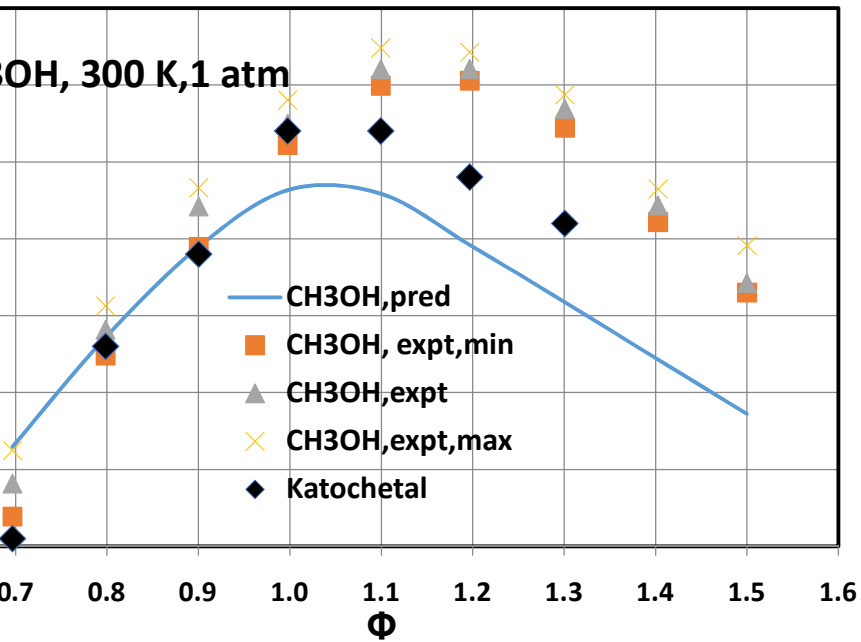




Heptane and Octane at different conditions for which data are set out in Konnov et al

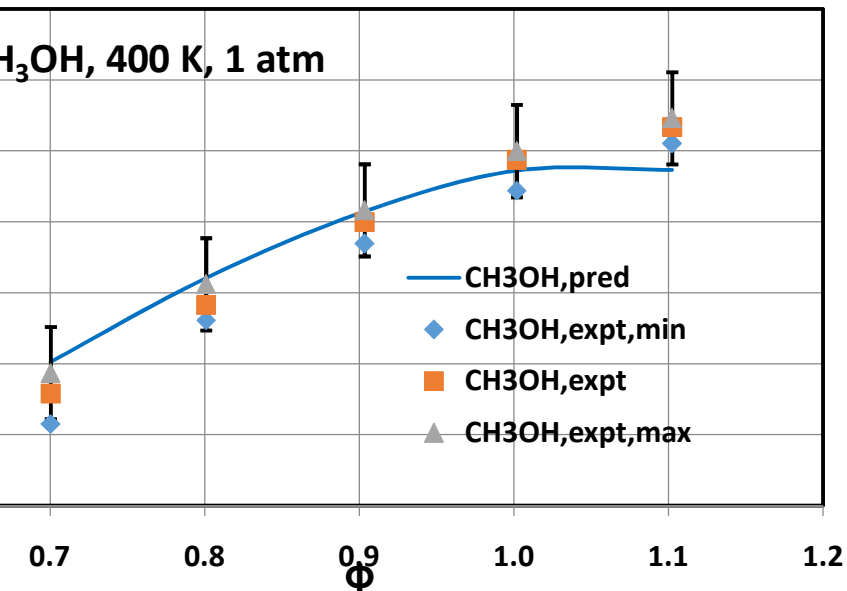
Comparisons reasonable





Ethyl Alcohol as extrapolated from Methane seems to behave very differently

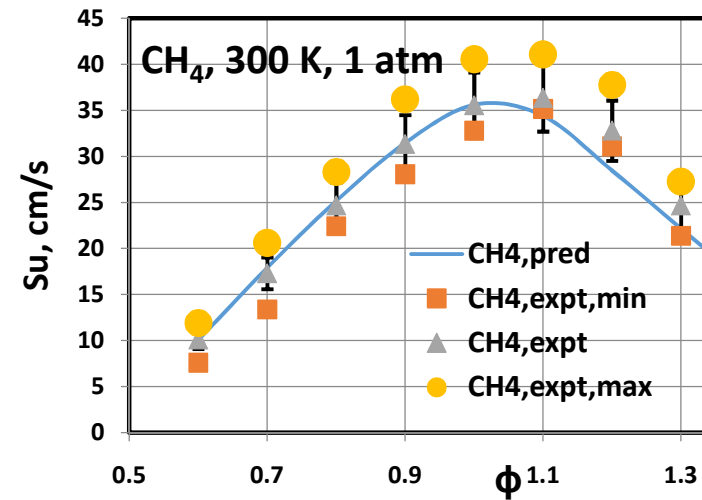
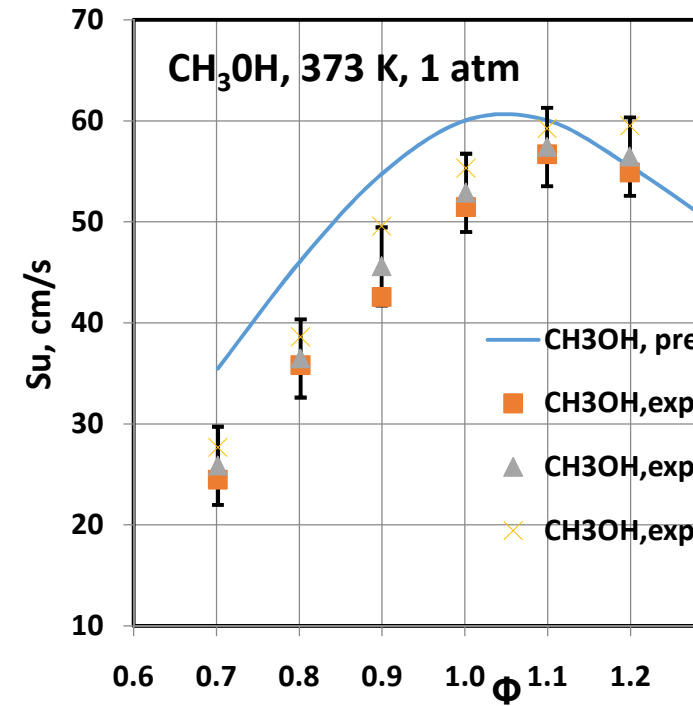
CH<sub>3</sub>OH even if treated as related to CH<sub>4</sub> in its combustion behavior with the oxygen atom integrated into the molecule allows higher reaction rates, no simple hypothesis can explain the complex behavior -



At 300 K, the burning velocity at the peak And under rich conditions are seriously under-predicted Also, at 373 K, lean flames are over-predicted

At 400 K, predictions seem reasonable!

No simple explanation seems possible for the observations.





# Predictions and comparisons for Hydrogen and Syngas compositions

Experimental data are obtained from Li et al, 2016; Wu, et al, 2018; Kannov et al, 2018; these et al, 2019

clearly noted that the peak in burning velocity occurs at very rich equivalence ratios

means the approach chosen for hydrocarbons seeking relationship with adiabatic flame temperature variation alone will not work - because stronger diffusional effects -of H<sub>2</sub> come play.

unfortunately, the variation with equivalence ratio alone would be adequate, as is seen to W.....

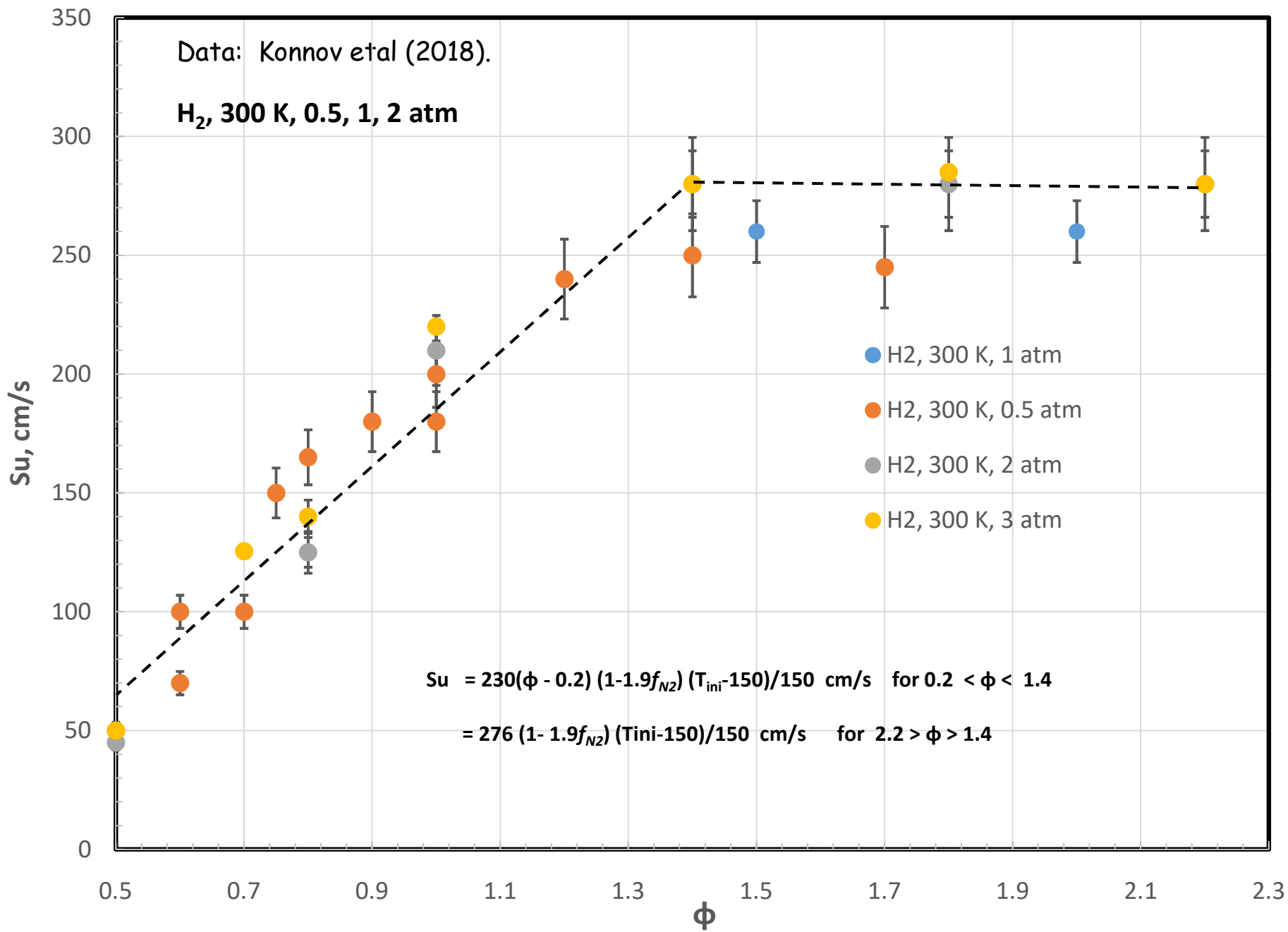
# Syngas compositions considered

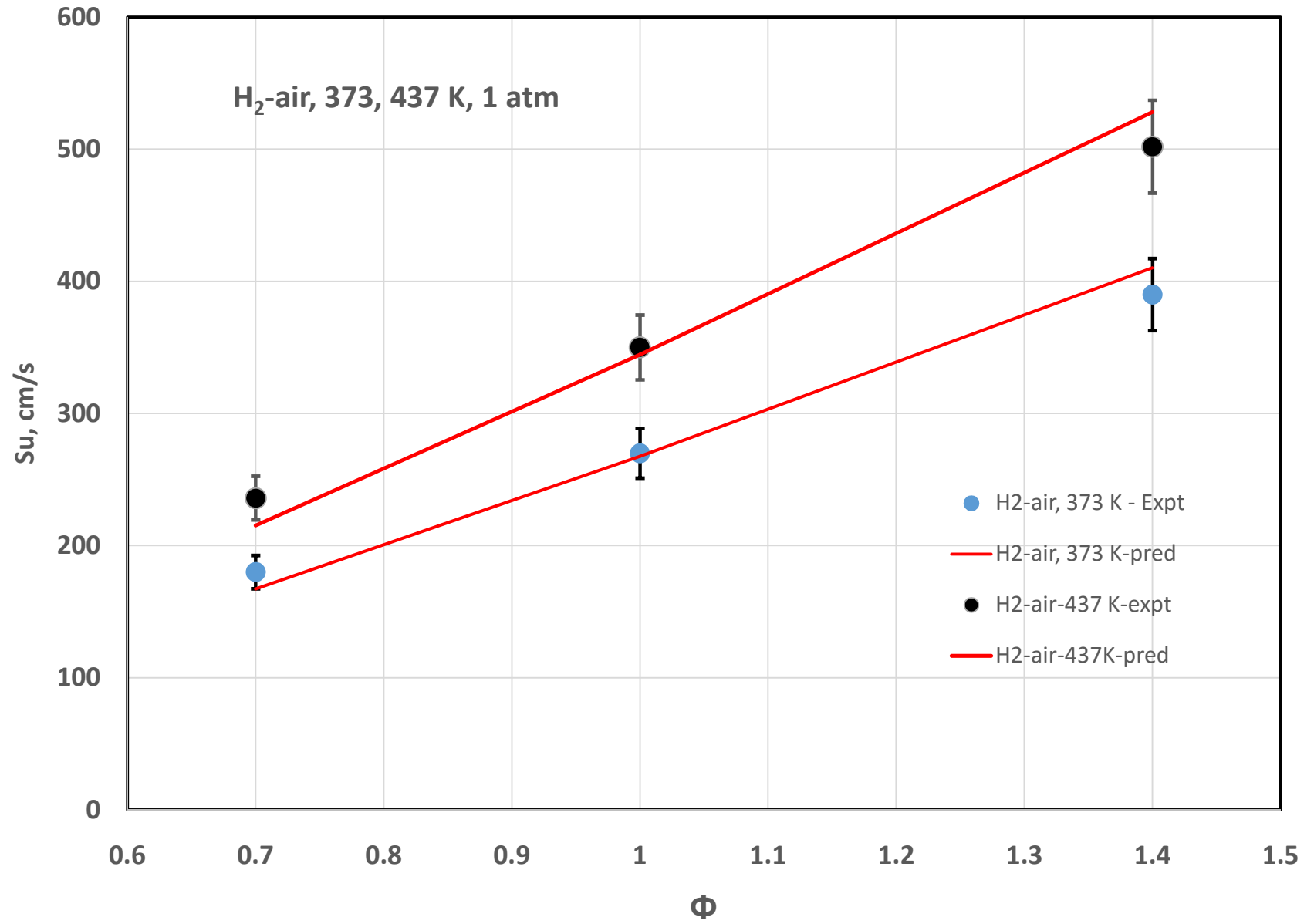
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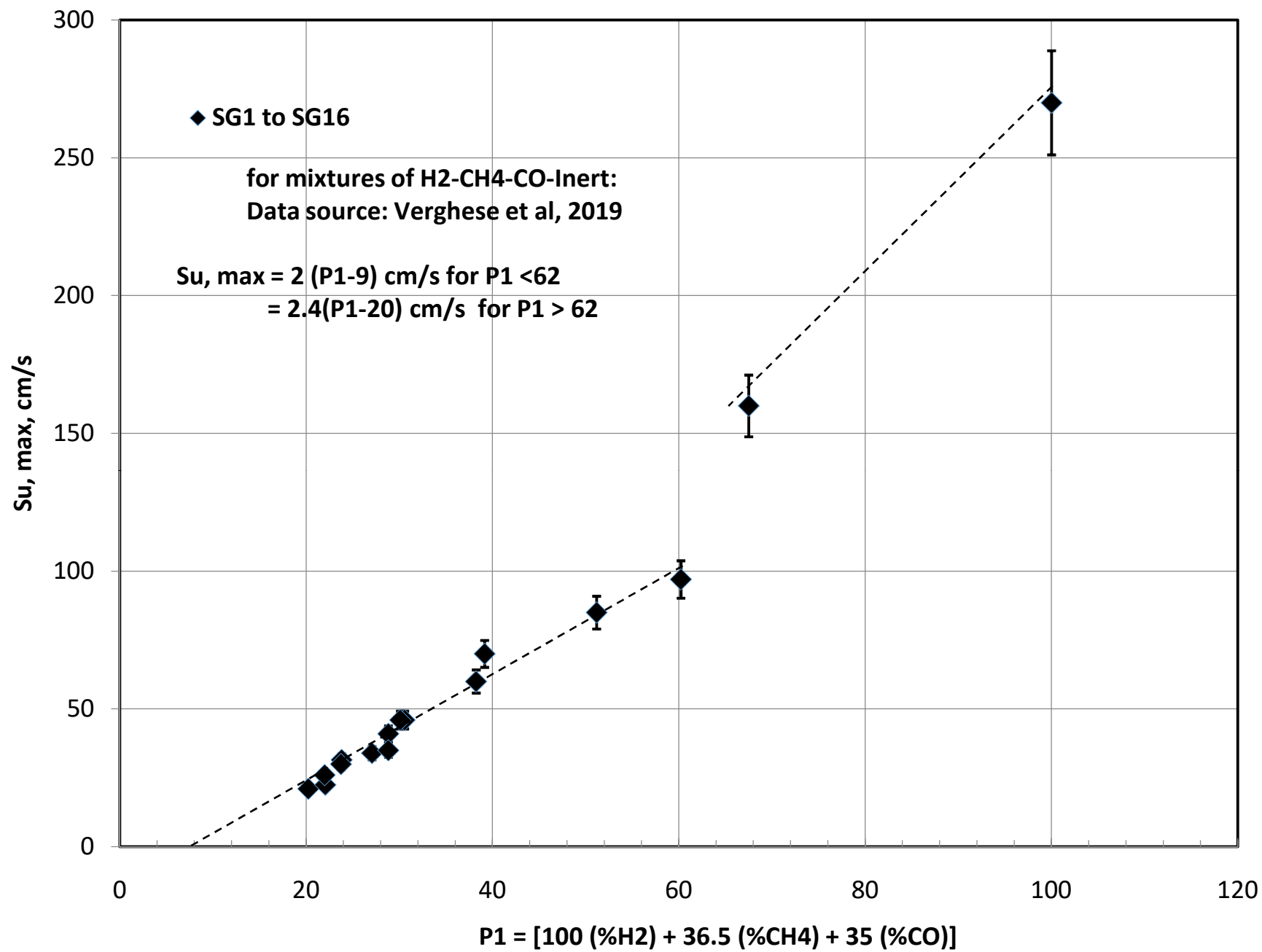
	CO, % v	H2 % v	CH4, % v	CO2 %v	N2, % v	Mol wt		Sources
SG1	15	15	0	15	55	26.5	21	Vergheese et al, 2019
SG2	15	15	5	15	50	25.9	22.5	same
SG3	15	20	5	10	50	23.8	34	same
SG4	20	15	0	15	50	26.5	26	same
SG5	20	15	5	10	50	25.1	31.5	same
SG6	20	20	5	10	45	23.8	41	same
SG7	20	20	5	15	40	24.6	35	same
SG8	25	20	5	10	40	23.8	46	same
SG9	25	15	0	15	45	26.5	30	same
SG10	13.5	23.6	4.9	8	50	22.6	46	Wu, et al, 2018
SG11	17.5	30.7	6.4	10.4	35	20.9	70	same
SG12	23	40.1	8.3	13.6	15	18.8	85	same
SG13	27	47.2	9.8	16	0	17.1	97	same
Largely CO SG14	95	5	0	0	0	26.7	60	Natarajan et al, 2007
SG15	50	50	0	0	0	15.0	160	Same
SG16	41.70	41.7	0	16.6	0	17.36	91.3	same
H <sub>2</sub> SG17	0	100	0	0	0	2.0	270	Konnov et al, 2018

Data: Konnov et al (2018).

H<sub>2</sub>, 300 K, 0.5, 1, 2 atm







# Syngas compositions

Approaches have been made for correlating the burning velocity which the more successful one is set out here.

Parameter, P1 is constructed such that it features of summation on mixture composition with burning velocities

$$+36.5f_{CH_4}+35f_{CO})$$

$$2 (P1 - 9) \text{ cm/s} \quad \text{for } P1 < 62 \quad \text{up to } \phi = 1.05$$

$$2.4 (P1 - 20) \text{ cm/s} \quad \text{for } P1 > 62$$

$$= 0.6) = 1.1 (P1-11)$$

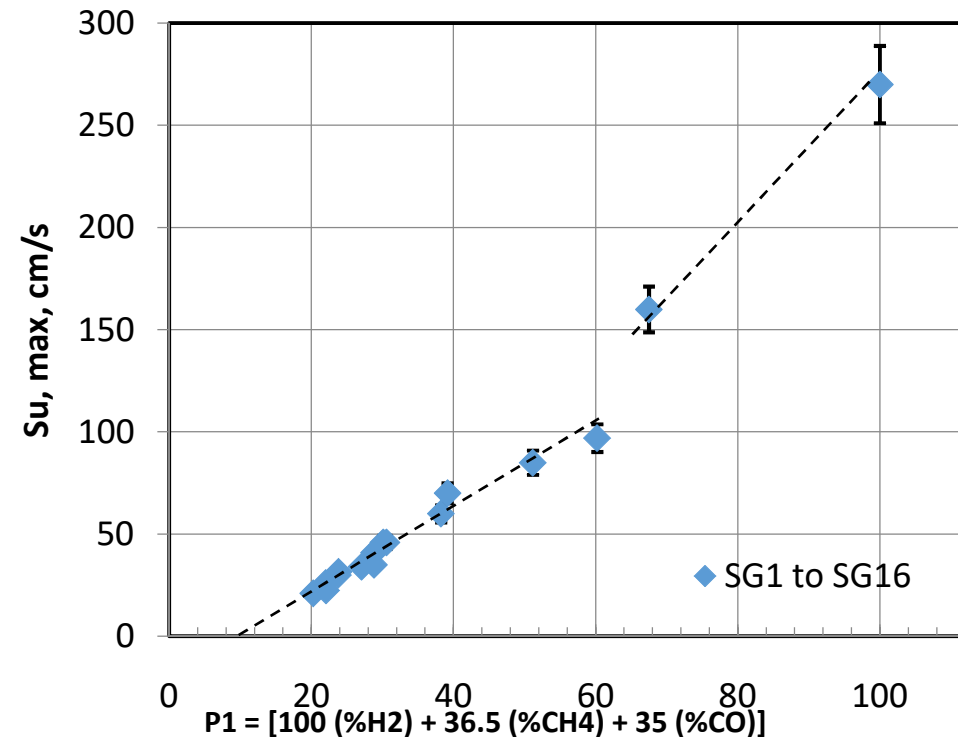
$$\text{min})/(Su,\text{max} - Su,\text{min}) = (\phi - 0.6)/(1.05 - 0.6)$$

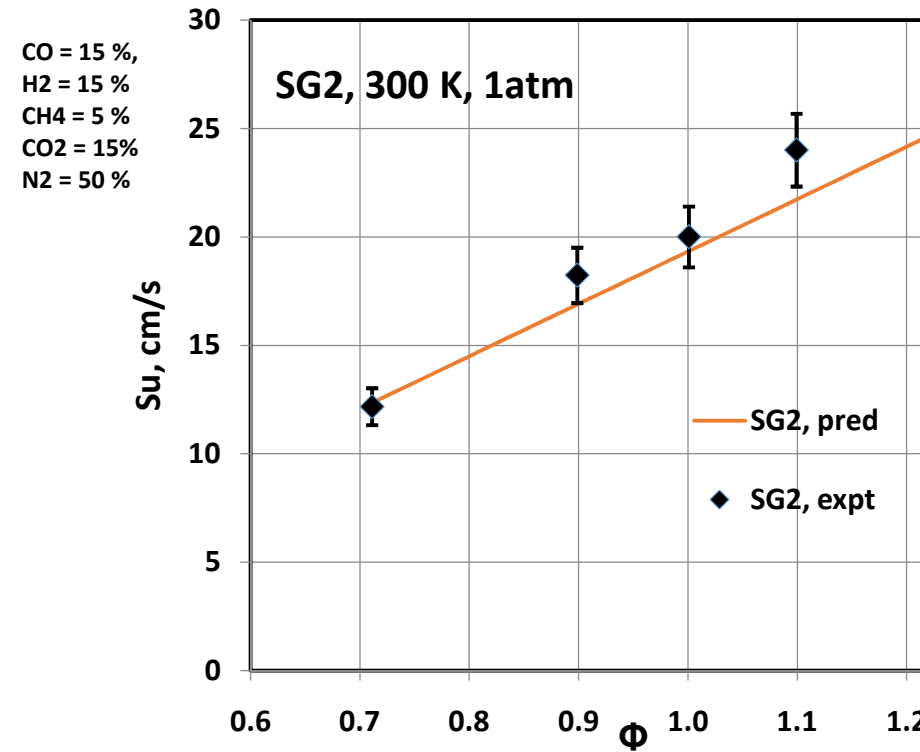
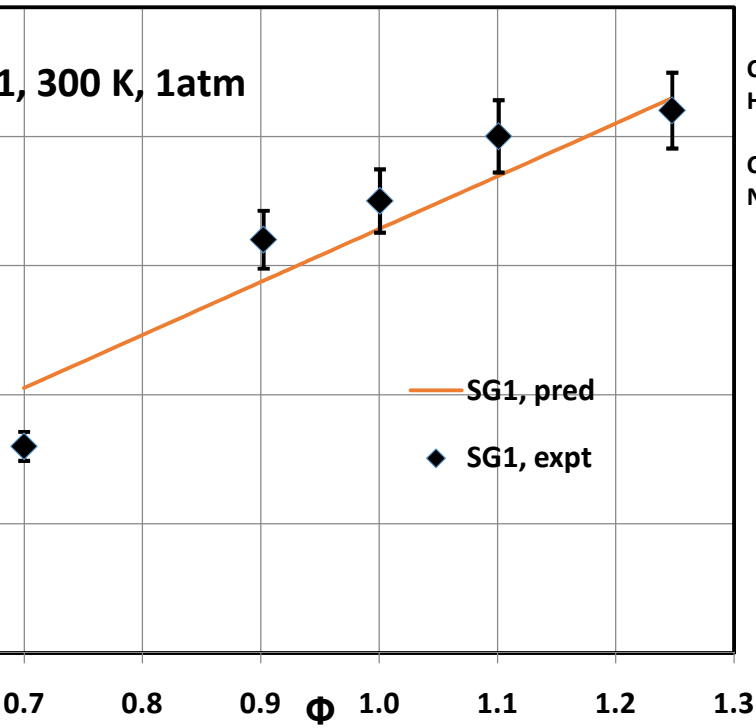
$$P1 - 11) + (2 P1 - 13) (\phi - 0.6) \quad \text{for } P1 < 62$$

$$P1 - 11) + (2.5 P1 - 50) (\phi - 0.6) \quad \text{for } P1 > 62$$

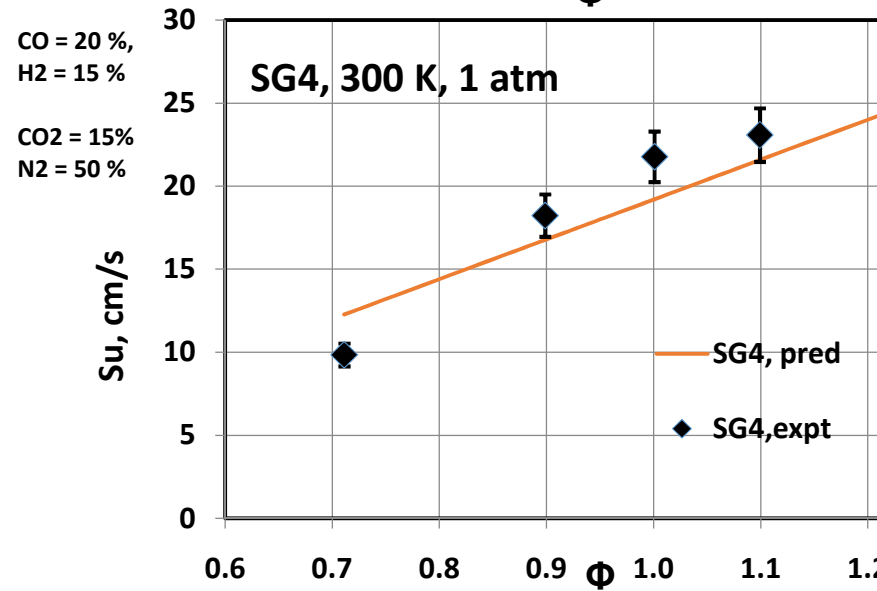
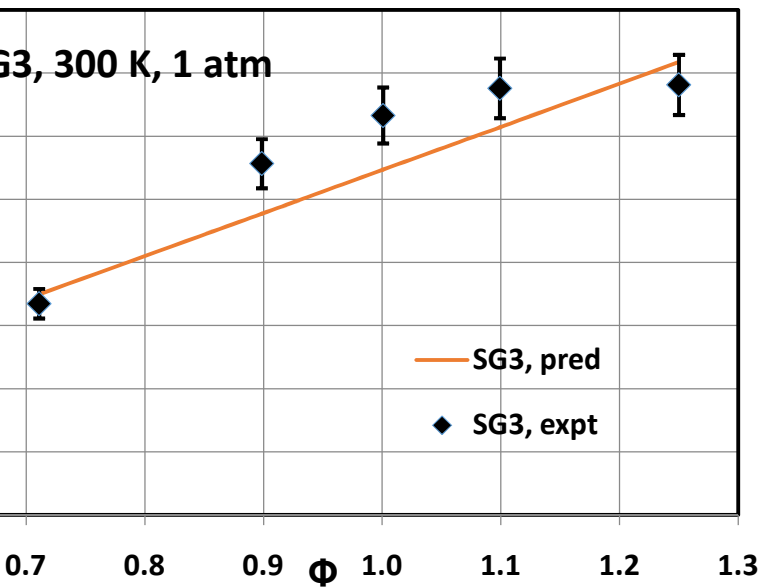
are mole fractions of individual species in the mixture.

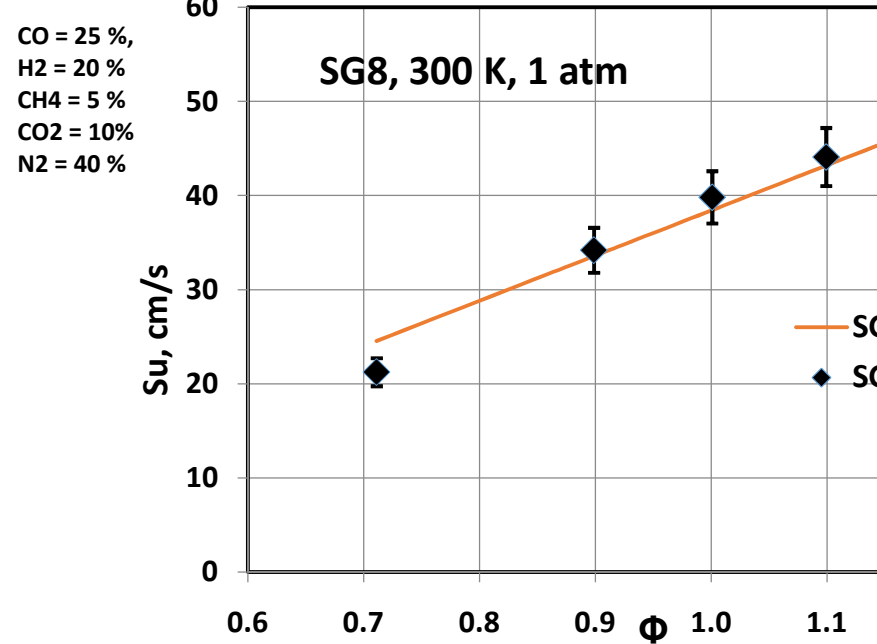
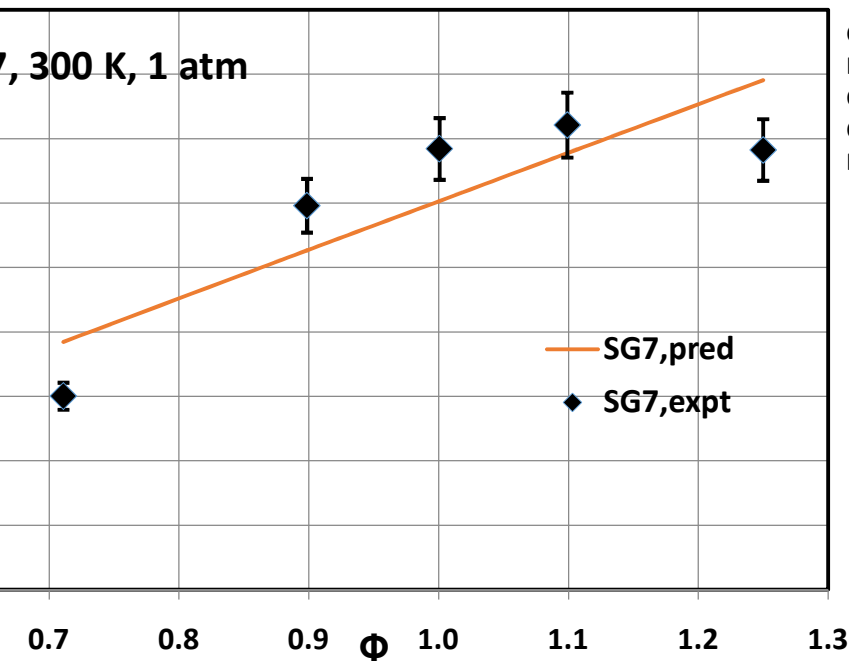
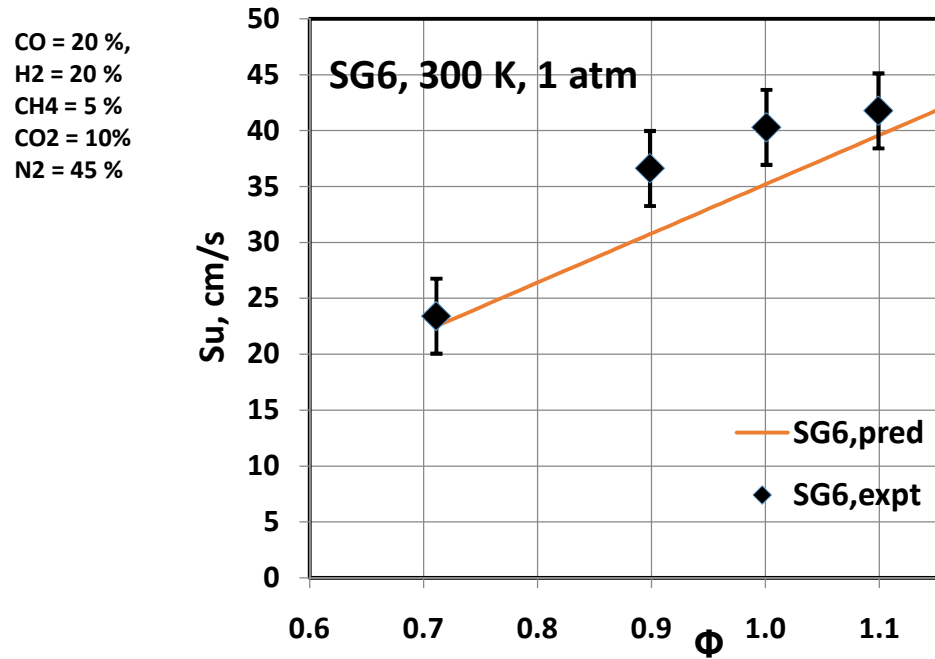
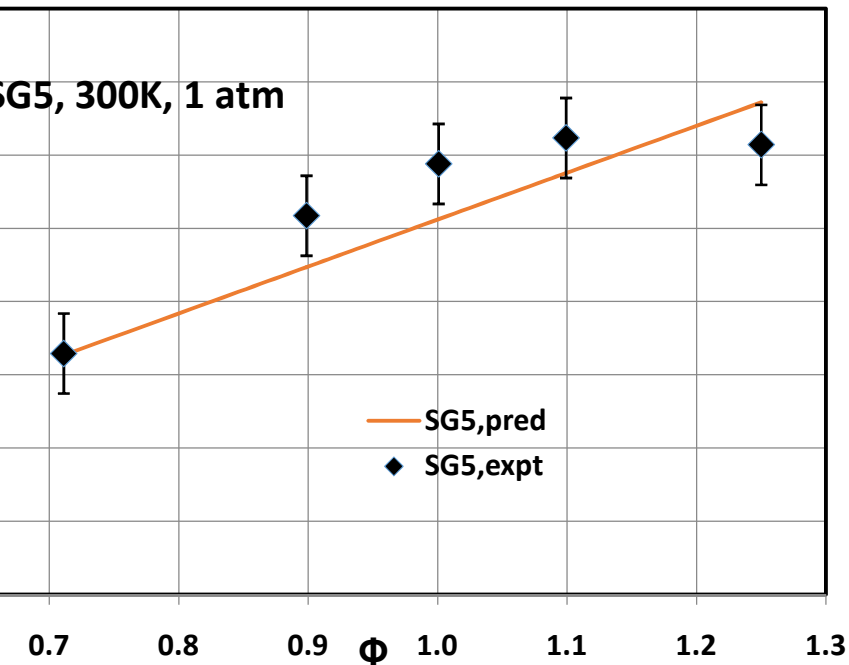
Equation does not distinguish between CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> and is consistent with experimental data.





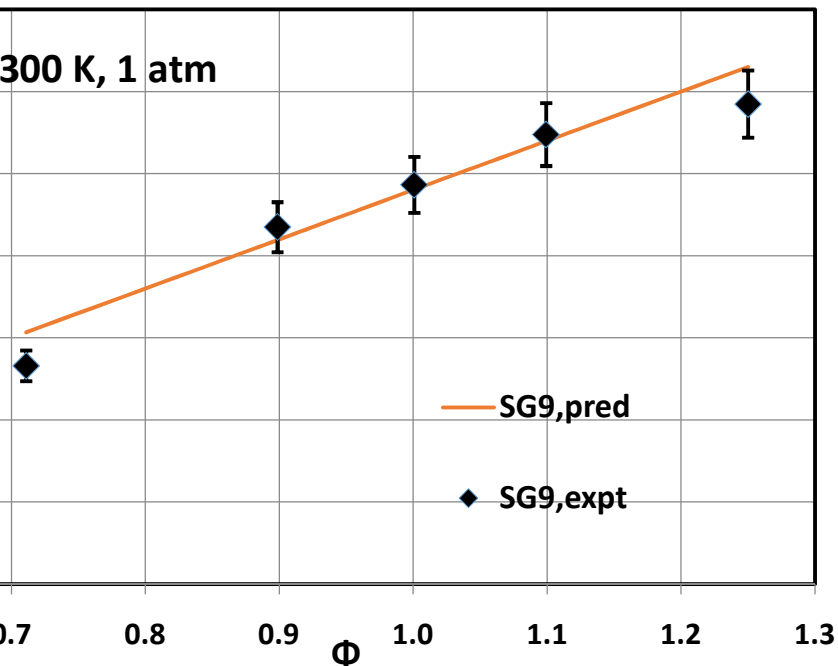
Comparisons appear good.





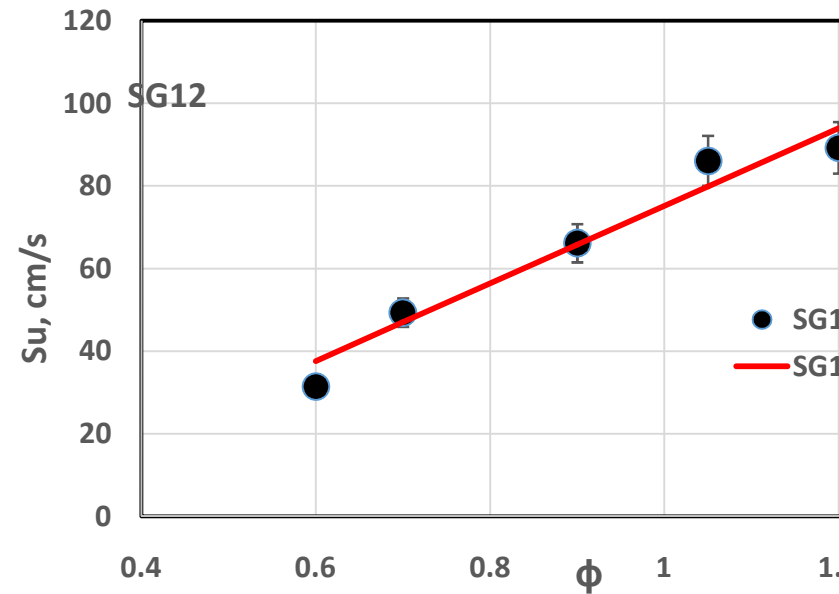
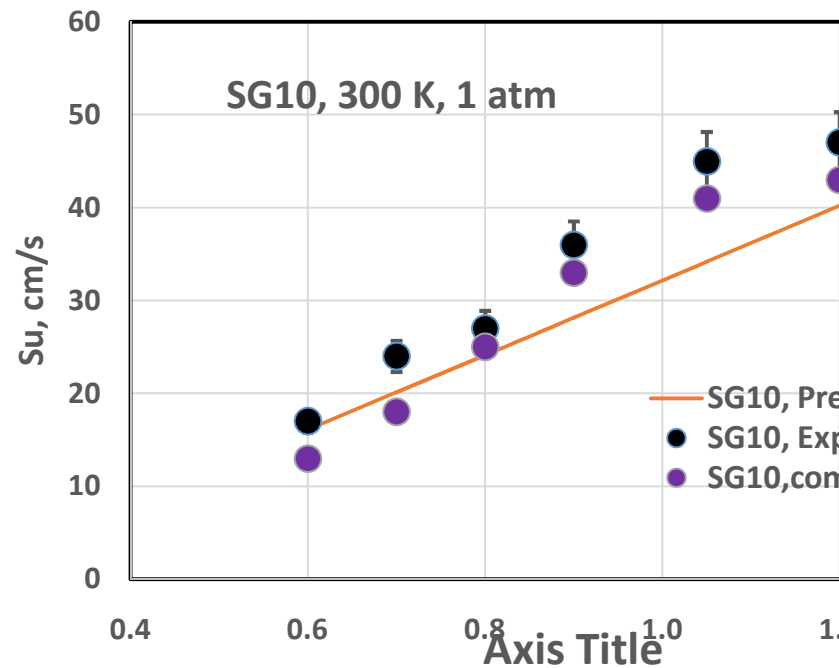
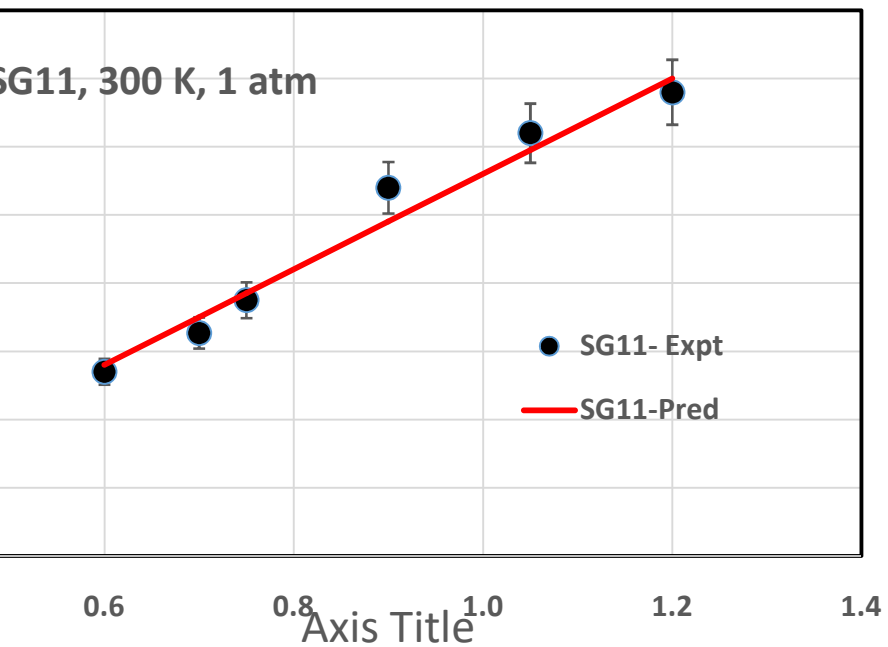
Comparisons are reasonably good

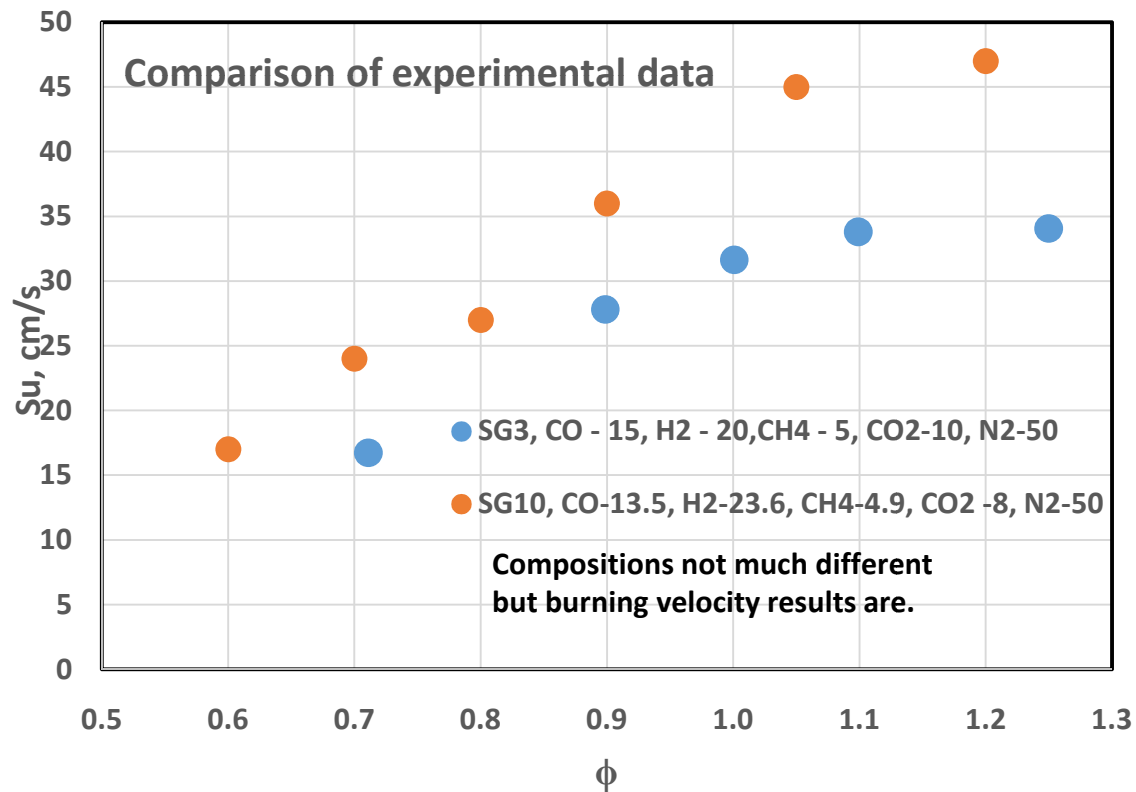
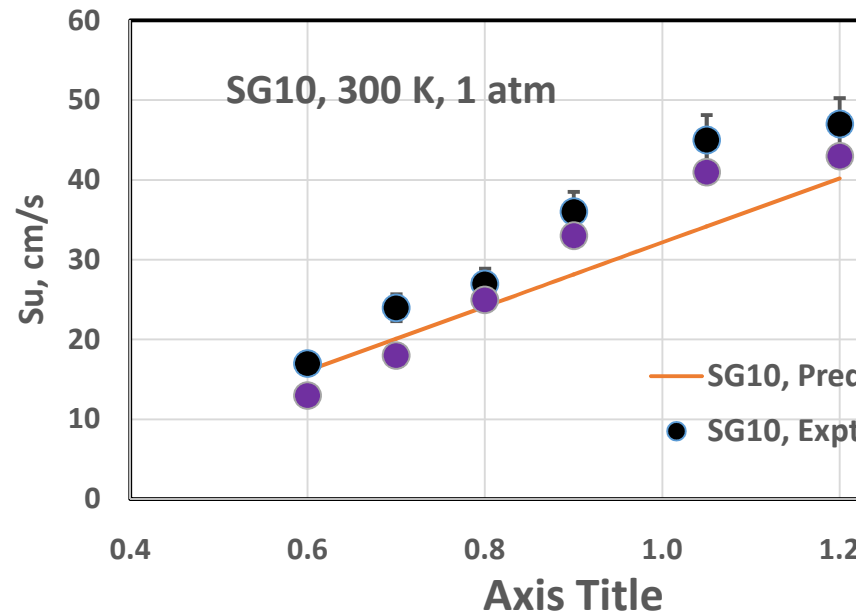
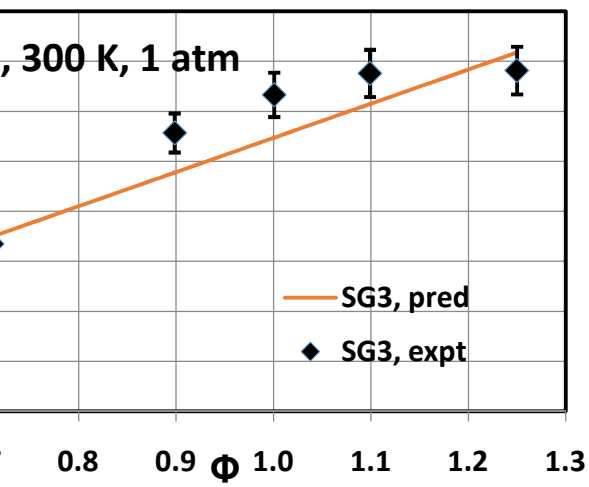




Comparisons are reasonable except for SG10.

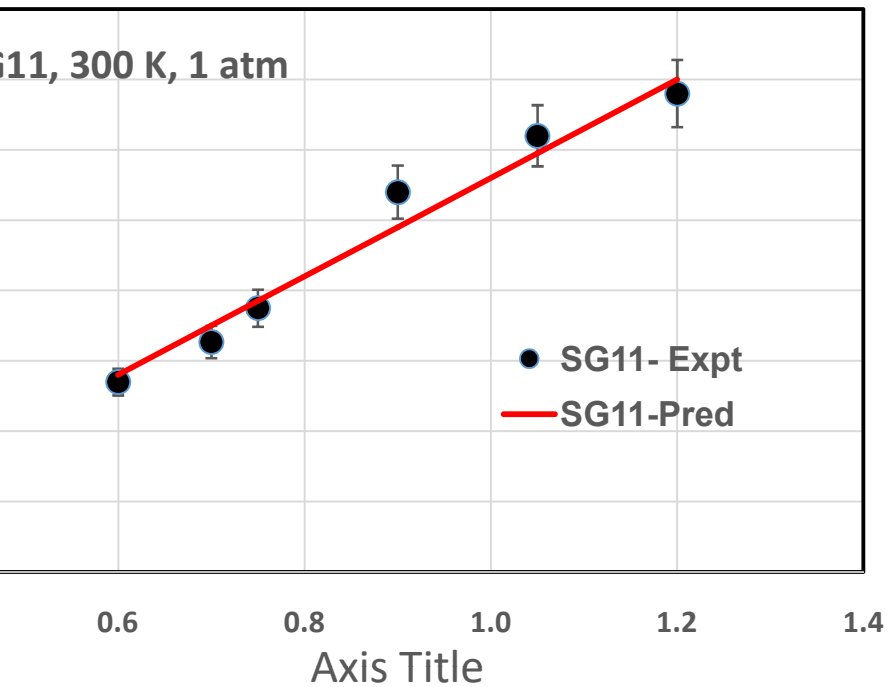
It appears that computational results favor the simpler expectation!



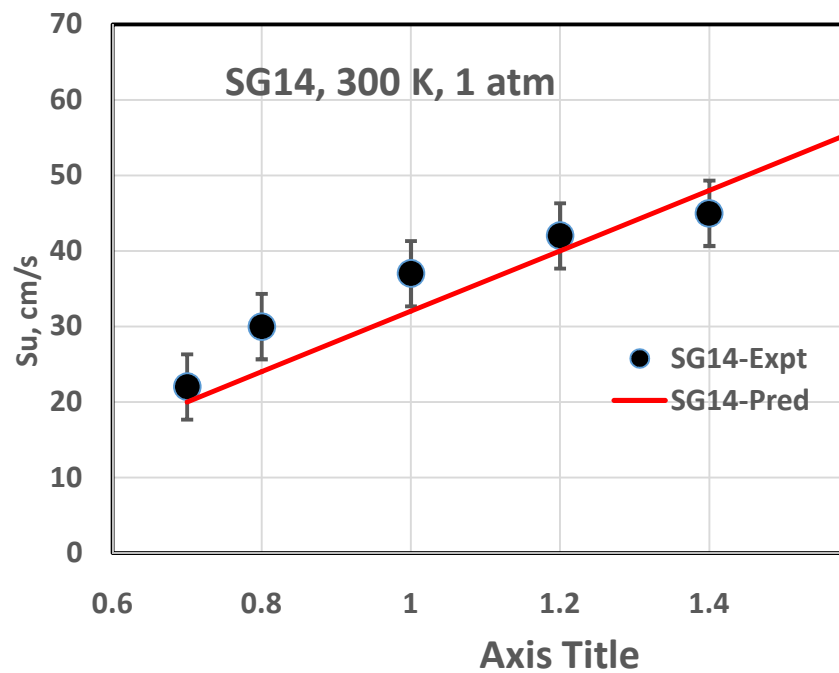
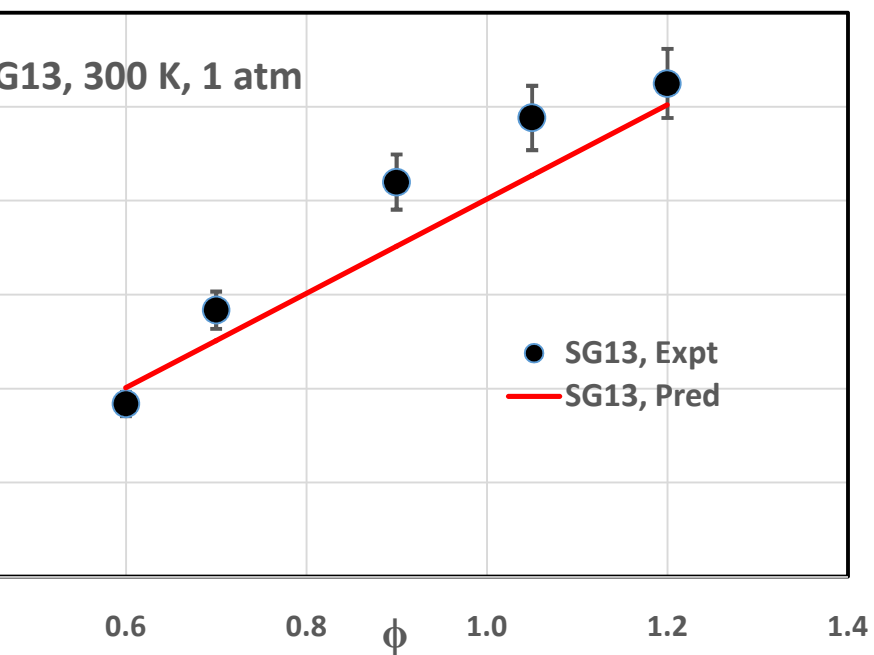
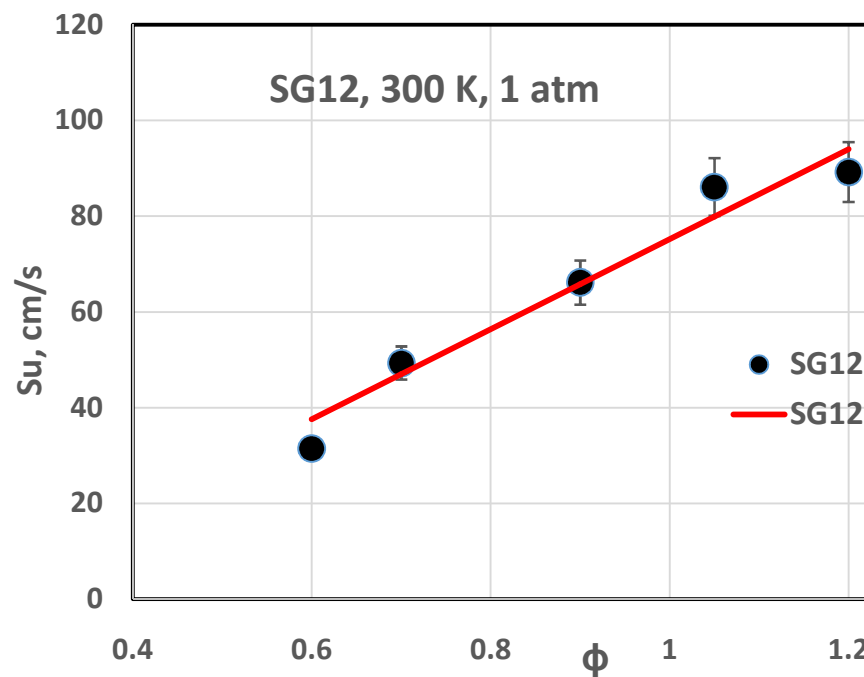


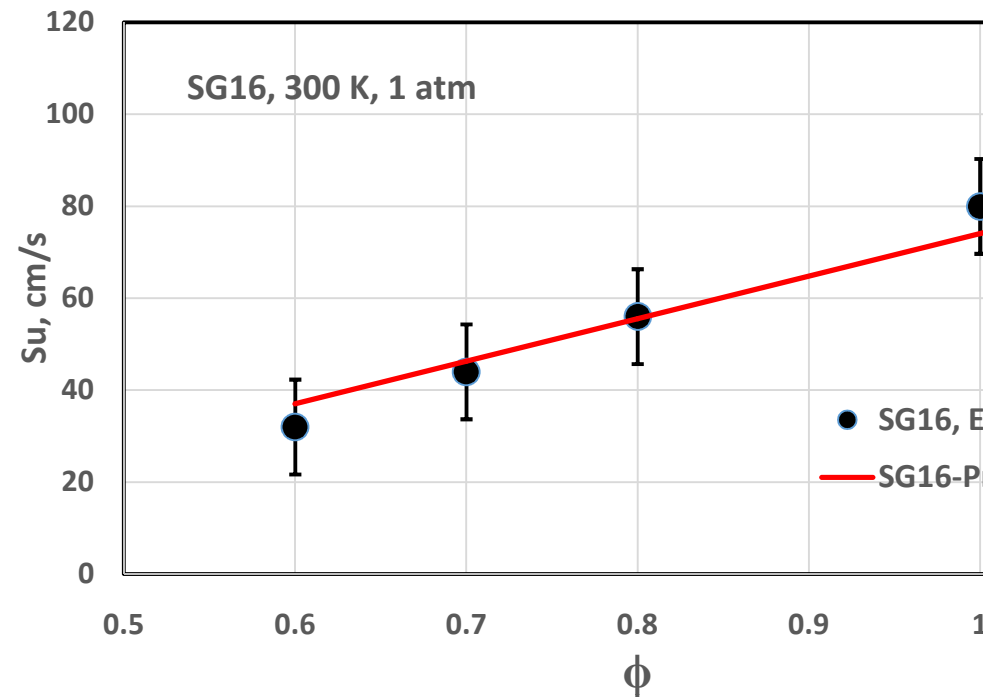
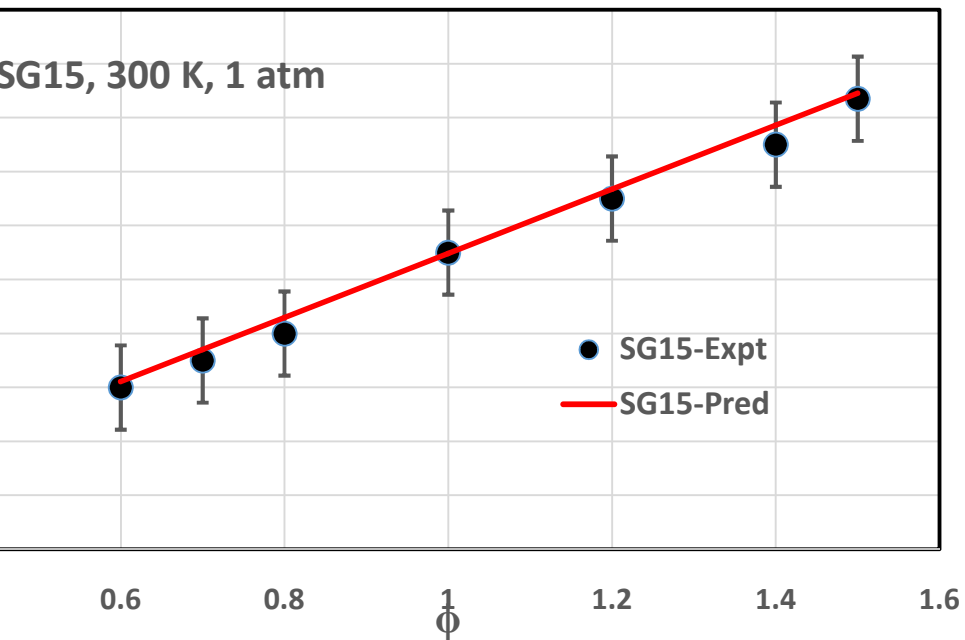
Observation:

The correlation seems to be able to distinguish between close but differently performing compositions.



Comparison  
reasonable

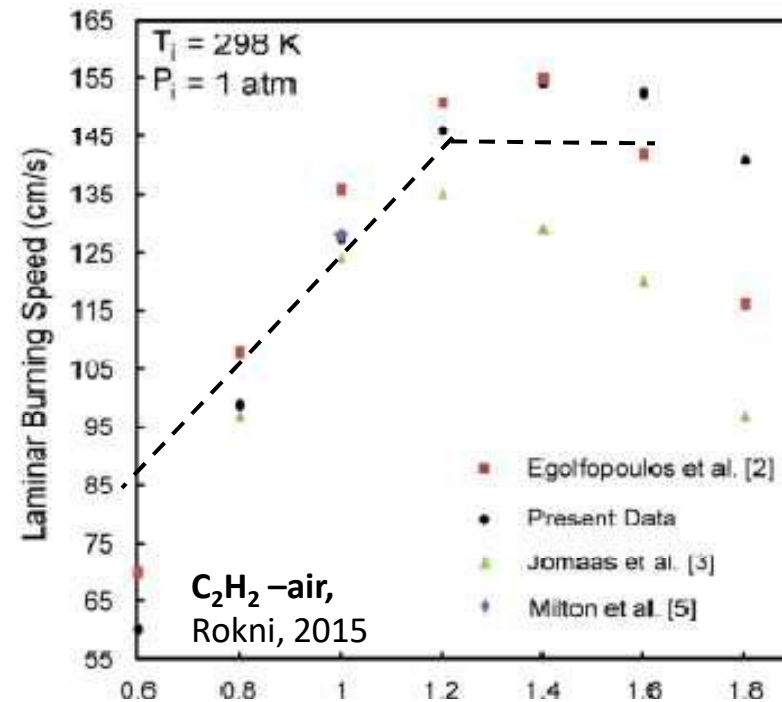




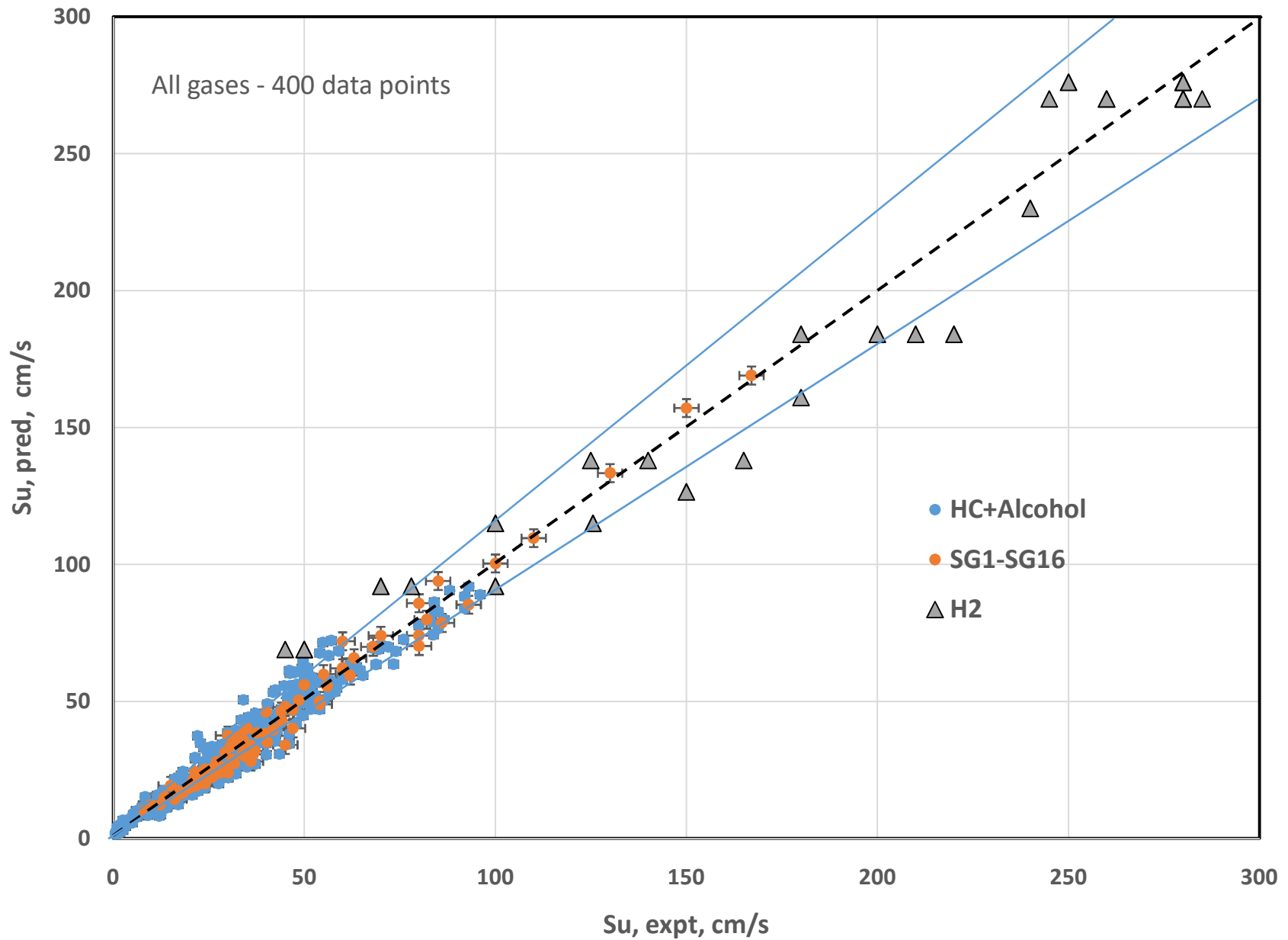
$$S_u (\text{C}_2\text{H}_2) = 100 \phi + 25 \text{ cm/s}, \phi < 1.2$$

$$= 145 \text{ cm/s}, 1.8 > \phi > 1.2$$

This is just a curve fit since relating to simple hydrocarbons is tortuous, if not impossible. It is because the reactivity of acetylene arises from its triple bond



# Overall performance of the correlations



# Summary

premixed flame burning behavior of 45+ compositions of hydrocarbons + alcohols + hydrogen and syngas have been considered for study

simplified correlations the burning velocity of hydrocarbons + alcohols and hydrogen and syngas as the attempts have been attempted.

for hydrocarbons and alcohols for various initial temperatures and pressures (CH<sub>3</sub>OH needs more studies)

$$S_u \text{ (cm/s)} = 35.6 p^{-0.3} (T_f/T_{f,max} - C)/(1-C) [(T_{ini}-150)/150] [1 + 0.3(M_f/16-1) \exp\{-0.8*(M_f/16-1)\}], T_f \text{ to be obtained from NASA CEC code}$$

for Hydrogen:  $S_u \text{ (H}_2\text{, cm/s)} = 230 (\phi - 0.2) (1 - 1.9f_{N_2}) (T_{ini} - 150)/150 \text{ cm/s}$  for  $0.2 < \phi < 1.4$ ,  $= 276 (1 - 1.9f_{N_2}) (T_{ini} - 150)/150 \text{ cm/s}$  for  $1.4 < \phi < 2.0$

for Syngas:  $P1 = (100f_{H_2} + 36.5f_{CH_4} + 35f_{CO})$   $S_{u, max} = 2 (P1 - 9) \text{ cm/s}$  for  $P1 < 62$   $= 2.4 (P1 - 20) \text{ cm/s}$  for  $P1 > 62$ , up to  $\phi = 1.05$   
 $S_{u, min} (\phi = 0.6) = 1.1 (P1 - 11)$

$$(S_u - S_{u, min}) / (S_{u, max} - S_{u, min}) = (\phi - 0.6) / (1.05 - 0.6); \text{ Therefore,}$$

$$S_u = 1.1 (P1 - 11) + (2 P1 - 13) (\phi - 0.6) \text{ for } P1 < 62$$

$$= 1.1 (P1 - 11) + (2.5 P1 - 50) (\phi - 0.6) \text{ for } P1 > 62, \text{ where } f_i \text{'s are mole fractions of individual species in the composition}$$

several alternate, somewhat more involved correlations did not do as well as the above.

these experiments are beset with inaccuracies of measurement, calculations are beset with issues of kinetic schemes and other thermochemical details. The final outcome from these efforts do not point to any one correlation being superior at this stage (accuracies  $\sim \pm 7$  to  $10$  %).

these data are intended for calculating for complex turbulent combusting premixed flows simpler correlations may as well do - except close to flammability limits where detailed chemistry matters

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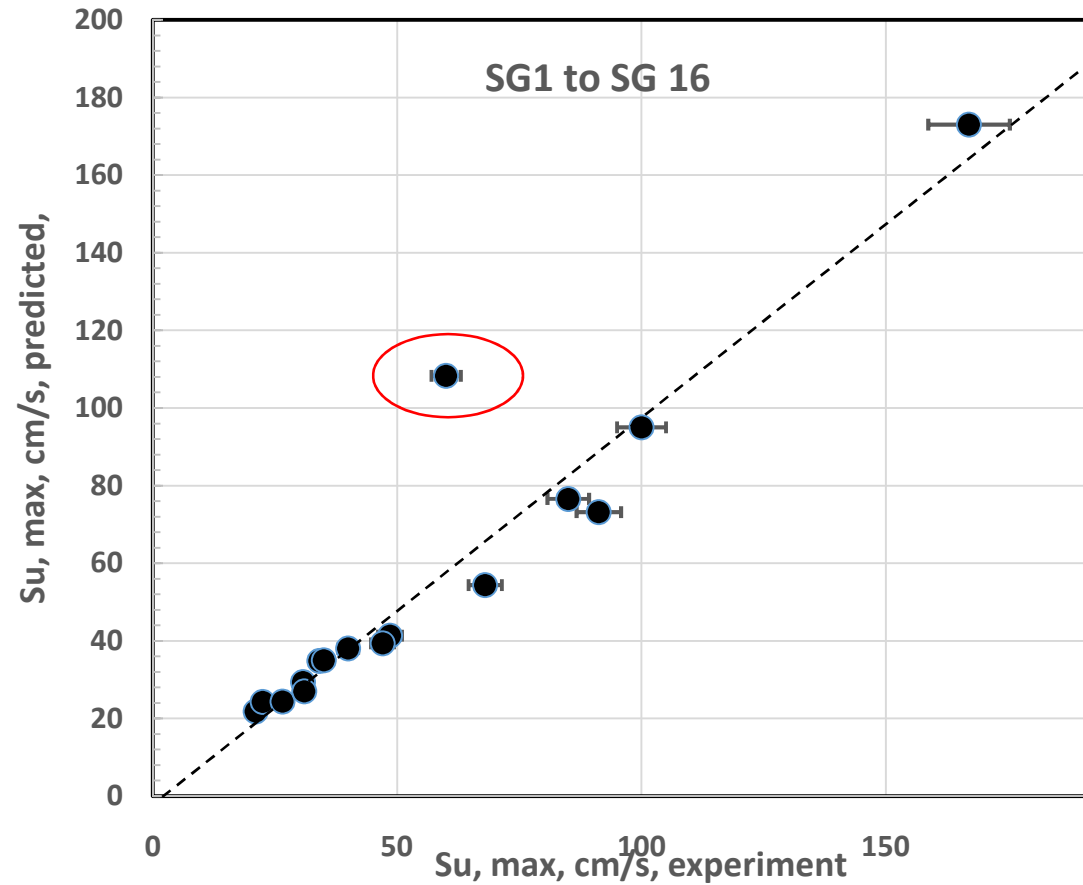
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Thank you

Compsn	Expt	Pred
SG1	21.0	21.8
SG2	22.5	24.3
SG3	34.1	34.9
SG4	26.5	24.4
SG5	30.7	29.4
SG6	40.0	38.0
SG7	35.0	35.0
SG8	48.5	41.3
SG9	31.0	27.1
SG10	47.0	39.4
SG11	68.0	54.4
SG12	85.0	76.6
SG13	100.0	95.0
SG14	60.0	115.3
SG15	167.0	181.3
SG16	91.3	73.2



Comparisons of maximum Su are reasonable for 10 of the 16 cases considered here.

The comparisons are not good for some, but bad for SG14. High CO cases have an issue in this format.

$$Su(H_2) = 225(\phi - 0.2)(T_{ini}-150)/150, \text{ for } \phi < 1.4, 270(T_{ini}-150)/150 f_{H_2} \text{ for all } \phi > 1.4$$

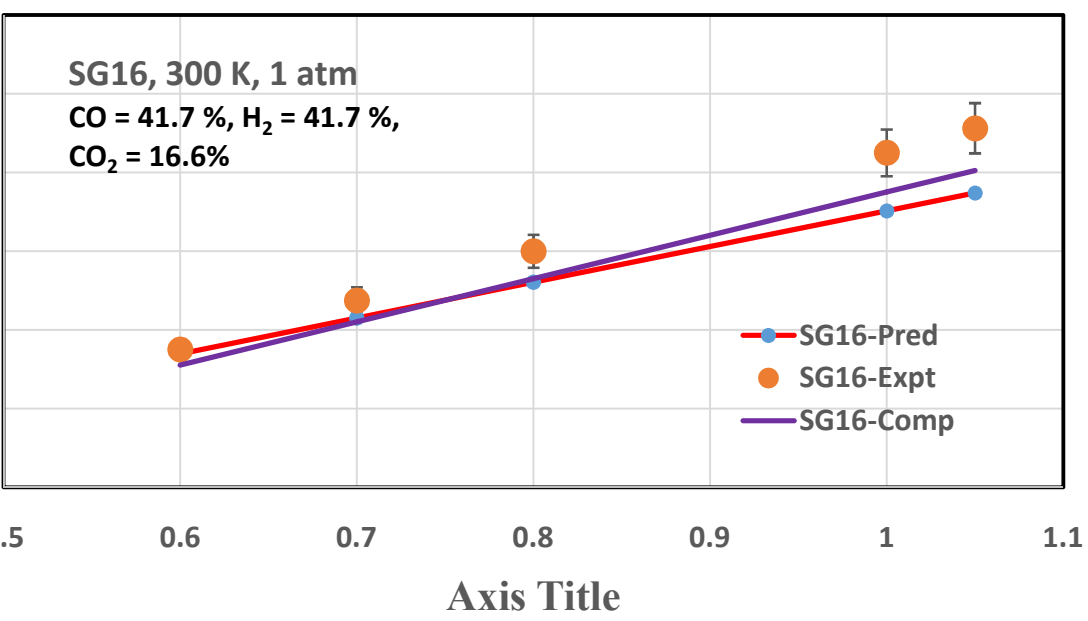
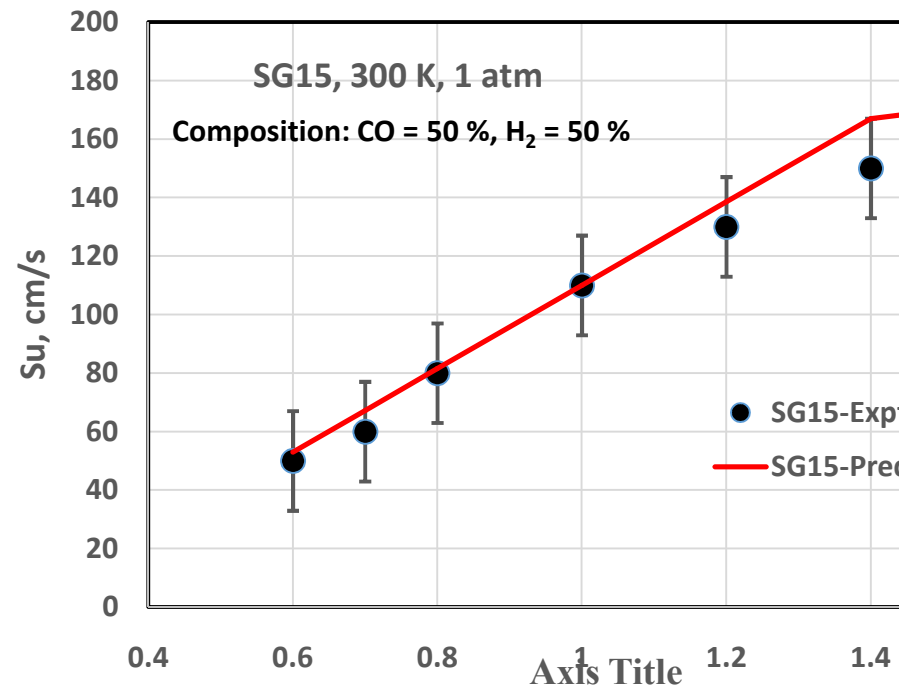
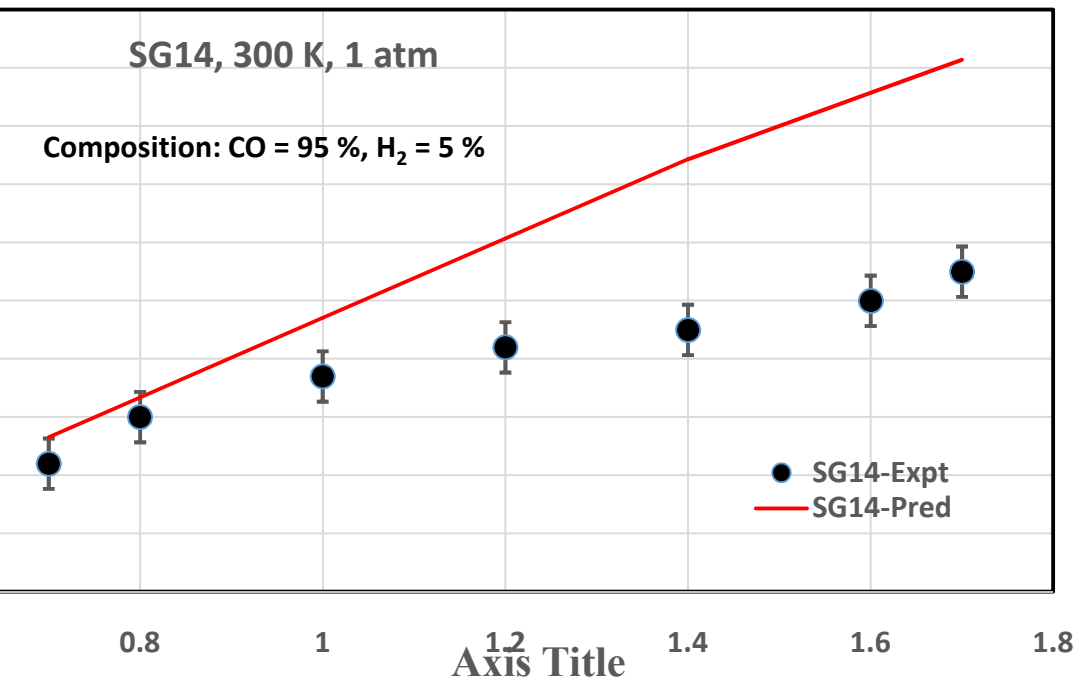
$$Su(CH_4) = 36.5*(1.71\phi-0.71)(T_{ini}-150)/150 \text{ for } \phi < 1.0$$

$$Su(CO) = 60(\phi - 0.33)(T_{ini}-150)/150 f_{CO} \text{ for } \phi < 1.0$$

$$Su = [Su(H_2) f_{H_2} + Su(CH_4) f_{CH_4} + Su(CO) f_{CO}] (1-1.3 f_{CO_2}-0.45 f_{N_2}) \text{ for } \phi < 1$$

where  $f_i$ 's are mole fractions of individual species





The poor comparison of composition SG14 cannot be understood because any simple modification is inconsistent with some good comparisons like SG15.

For SG16, it appears that computational results compare better with simple predictions compared to experiments. CO has been known to burn very slowly without H<sub>2</sub>O (moisture);  $CO + OH \rightarrow CO_2 + H$  is supposedly the most dominant reaction.

CO problem remains to be resolved.