

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0167-7322(17)30421-X
DOI: doi: [10.1016/j.molliq.2017.09.010](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molliq.2017.09.010)
Reference: MOLLIQ 7846

To appear in: *Journal of Molecular Liquids*

Received date: 30 January 2017
Revised date: 1 September 2017
Accepted date: 3 September 2017

Please cite this article as: Arash Kamari, Maysam Pournik, Alireza Rostami, Amin Amirlatifi, Amir H. Mohammadi, Characterizing the CO₂-brine interfacial tension (IFT) using robust modeling approaches: A comparative study, *Journal of Molecular Liquids* (2017), doi: [10.1016/j.molliq.2017.09.010](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molliq.2017.09.010)

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Characterizing the CO₂-Brine Interfacial Tension (IFT) Using Robust Modeling Approaches: A Comparative Study

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Abstract – Interfacial phenomenon between CO₂ and water phases affects the distribution and behavior of fluids in porous media, and also plays a major role in determining the usefulness of enhanced oil recovery methods particularly CO₂ flooding. Therefore, in this study, the interfacial tension (IFT) between CO₂ and brine is predicted as a function of the temperature, pressure, bivalent cation molality, monovalent cation molality as well as methane and nitrogen mole fractions using three robust modelling strategies called gene expression programming (GEP), decision tree (DT), and least squares support vector machine (LSSVM). Furthermore, the outcomes obtained by the methods mentioned above have been assessed by comparing with the reported estimates of artificial neural network (ANN) in the literature. Amongst the all models proposed in current study, it is demonstrated that the developed regression DT tool and the available ANN in literature are the most precise models which could be applied properly as the reliable methods for the characterization and determination of IFT between CO₂ and brine, and also for geological CO₂ storage.

Keywords - Interfacial tension (IFT); CO₂; Brine; Prediction; Modeling.

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