method is limited by the number of available UNIFAC parameters, although experimental determination of new parameters is proceeding rapidly. As more parameters become available, a more extensive evaluation of this method should be accomplished.

NOTATION

= reactant

В = reactant

= reaction rate constant k

M = activated complex

= activity coefficient

Subscripts

A1= cyclohexene reactant

= acetone reactant A2

= arbitrary solvent i

φ = benzene solvent

= ideal solution

1 = cyclohexene hydrogenation reaction

= acetone hydrogenation reaction

LITERATURE CITED

range 248-700°K.

is defined by:

given by:

HENRY'S CONSTANT

Bjerrum, N., "Zur Theorie der Chemischen Reaktionsgeschwindigkeit," Z. Phys. Chem., 108, 82 (1924).

Recent developments in heavy fossil-energy technology have

renewed interest in hydrogen-heavy hydrocarbon vapor-liquid equilibria, especially at higher temperatures. In this work we

present a correlation for Henry's constants for hydrogen in

typical hydrocarbons and nonpolar solvents in the temperature

For hydrogen (2) dissolved in a solvent (1), Henry's constant H

 $H \equiv \lim_{x_2 \to 0} f_2/x_2$

where x is the liquid-phase mole-fraction and f is the fugacity

where P is the total pressure and y is the vapor-phase mole

fraction. The vapor-phase fugacity coefficient ϕ can be calcu-

The well-known K factor is related to Henry's constant by:

lated from an equation of state (Prausnitz, 1969).

Brønsted, J. M., "Zur Theorie der Chemischen Reaktionsgeschwindigkeit," Z. Phys. Chem., 102, 169 (1922).

Eckert, C. A., "Molecular Thermodynamics of Chemical Reactions," Ind. Eng. Chem., 59(9), 20 (1967).

Eckert, C. A., C. K. Hsieh, and J. R. McCabe, "Molecular Thermodynamics for Chemical Reactor Design," AIChE J., 20(1), 20

Evans, M. G. and I. M. Polyani, "Some Applications of the Transition State Method to the Calculation of Reaction Velocities, Especially in Solution," Trans. Faraday Soc., 31, 875 (1935).

Fredenslund, Aa., R. L. Jones, and J. M. Prausnitz, "Group-Contribution Estimation of Activity Coefficients in Nonideal Liquid Mixtures," AIChE J., 21, 1086 (1975).

Fredenslund, Aa., J. Gmehling, and P. Rasmussen, Vapor-Liquid Equilibria Using UNIFAC, Elsevier, Amsterdam (1977).

Glasstone, S., K. J. Laidler, and H. Eyring, The Theory of Rate Processes, McGraw-Hill, New York (1941).

Jungers, J. C., "Cenétique Chimque Appliquée," Societé des Editions Technip, Paris, 466 (1958).

Marcus, R. A., "On the Theory of Chemical-Reaction Cross Sections, II.

Application to the H + H₂ Reaction," *J. Chem. Phys.*, 46, 959 (1967). Skjold-Jørgensen, S., B. Kolbe, J. Gmehling, and P. Rasmussen, Vapor-Liquid Equilibria by UNIFAC Group Contribution. Revision and Extension," Ind. Eng. Chem. Process Des. Dev., 18(4), 714

Wong, K. F. and C. A. Eckert, "Solvent Design for Chemical Reactions," Ind. Eng. Chem. Process Des. Dev., 8(4), 568 (1969).

Manuscript received April 7, 1980; revision received June 27, and accepted July 9,

Correlation of Hydrogen Solubilities in Nonpolar Solvents Based on Scaled-Particle Theory

S. K. SCHAFFER

and

J. M. PRAUSNITZ

Chemical Engineering Department University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720

 $K \equiv y_2/x_2 = \frac{\gamma_2^* H}{\phi_2 P}$ (3)

where γ_2^* is the (unsymmetric) liquid-phase activity coefficient. Since the solubility x_2 is normally small and since hydrogen's gas-phase properties are normally well approximated by those of an ideal gas, the ratio γ_2^*/ϕ_2 is close to unity even at moderately high pressures, provided only that the temperature of the system is well below the solvent's critical.

Figure 1 shows experimental Henry's constants for hydrogen in 14 solvents in the region 248-700°K. Note the scale at the right which refers to carbon disulfide and benzene. For hydrogen in this temperature range, Henry's constants uniformly fall with rising temperature. Over the temperature range indicated, Henry's constants vary by one order of magnitude, depending on temperature and solvent.

$f_2 = \phi_2 y_2 P$ (2)**SCALED-PARTICLE THEORY**

(1)

To correlate H, we use the scaled-particle theory of Reiss et al. (1959, 1960) as discussed by Pierrotti (1963, 1976). The partial Gibbs energy of dissolving a solute in a liquid consists of two parts: first, the work needed to create a cavity in the solvent to place a solute molecule and second, the energy of interaction between the dissolved solute and the surrounding solvent. (The entropy of interaction is neglected.)

^{0001-1541-81-4389-0844-\$2.00.} The American Institute of Chemical Engineers,

TABLE 1. SCALED-PARTICLE-THEORY PARAMETERS

Solvent	$100\sigma_1$, nm	ϵ_1/k , °K	$10^9 \sigma_1 \left(\frac{P_c}{RT_c} \right)^{1/3}$	ϵ_1/RT_c	
					
n-Heptane	62.3	563	5.28	1.04	
Carbon Tetrachloride	53.8	528	5.35	0.95	
Benzene	52.3	507	5.31	0.90	
n-Octane	65.1	594	5.26	1.04	
Toluene	56.3	585	5.30	0.99	
Methylcyclohexane	59.8	559	5.38	0.98	
Carbon Disulfide	44.6	509	5.35	0.92	
n-Hexane	58.4	511	5.22	1.01	
Isooctane	66.0	549	5.47	1.01	
Bicyclohexyl	71.0	768	5.32	1.05	
Tetralin	63.0	728	5.20	1.02	
1-Methylnaphthalene	64.0	779	5.10	1.09	
Diphenylmethane	68.8	825	5.26	1.07	
n-Decane	72.0	679	5.34	1.10	
Solute	$100\sigma_1$, nm	ϵ_2/k , °K			
Hydrogen	28.7	29.2			

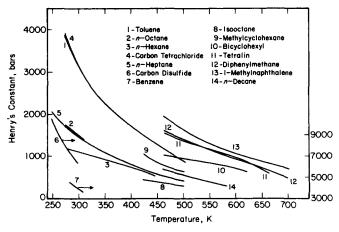


Figure 1. Henry's constants for hydrogen.

$$\frac{\Delta \bar{g}_2}{RT} = \bar{g}_c/RT + \bar{g}_i/RT = \ln H v_i/RT \tag{4}$$

where subscript c refers to cavity-formation and subscript i refers to interaction; v_1 is the molar liquid volume of solvent. The final term in Equation (4), Hv_1/RT , is a dimensionless quantity.

The scaled-particle theory of fluids (Pierotti, 1963) gives

$$\bar{g}_c = K_0 + K_1 \sigma_{12} + K_2 \sigma_{12}^2 + K_3 \sigma_{12}^3 \tag{5}$$

where

$$K_0 = RT \left[-\ln(1-\xi) + \frac{9}{2} \xi^2 / (1-\xi)^2 \right] - N\pi P \sigma_1^3 / 6$$
 (6)

$$K_1 = -(RT/\sigma_1)[6\xi/(1-\xi) + 18\xi^2/(1-\xi)^2] + N\pi P\sigma_1^2$$
 (7)

$$K_2 = (RT/\sigma_1^2)[12\xi/(1-\xi) + 18\xi^2/(1-\xi)^2] - 2N\pi P\sigma_1$$
 (8)

$$K_3 = (4/3)\pi P \tag{9}$$

where $\xi = \pi \sigma_1^3 \rho_1/6$, R is the gas constant and N is Avogadro's number.

The density ρ_1 is the number density of the solvent (molecules per unit volume); molecular diameters of solvent and solute are designated by σ_1 and σ_2 , respectively. (The number density is

related to the molar volume by $\rho_1 = N/v_1$.) We set σ_{12} equal to $(1/2)(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2)$.

The energy of interaction for nonpolar systems is given by:

$$\bar{g}_i \approx \bar{E}_i = N \int_0^\infty \epsilon_i(r) \ 4\pi r^2 \rho_1 \underline{g}(\sigma_2, r) \ dr$$
 (10)

where $\epsilon_i(r)$ is the energy of interaction between one solute molecule and one solvent molecule separated by distance r and $\underline{g}(\sigma_2, r)$, the radial distribution function, is a measure of the probability of finding a solvent molecular center at the distance r from the center of a solute molecule. As shown by Wilhelm and Battino (1971) and by Pierotti, when $\epsilon_i(r)$ is given by the Lennard-Jones potential, and when we use the approximation

$$\underline{g} = 0 \text{ for } r < \sigma_2$$

 $\underline{g} = 1 \text{ for } r \ge \sigma_2$

then.

$$\frac{\bar{g}_i}{RT} = -\left(\frac{32}{9}\right) \left(\frac{\pi \rho_1}{kT}\right) \epsilon_{12} \sigma_{12}^3 \tag{11}$$

where ϵ_{12} is a characteristic solute-solvent interaction parameter and where k is Boltzmann's constant.

DATA REDUCTION

To reduce hydrogen-solubility data we require that such data be given in the form of Henry's constants. In many cases, Henry's constants are given directly by the authors reporting the data. In some cases it was necessary to calculate Henry's constants from the data using Eq. 1.

To fit the data to scaled-particle theory, it is necessary to know the molar liquid volume of the solvent which depends on temperature. Molar liquid volumes at lower temperatures were calculated using the Rackett equation as discussed elsewhere (Prausnitz et al., 1980); for higher temperatures, the correlation of Hankinson and Thomson (1979) was used.

To reduce solubility data, we require three molecular parameters: two unicomponent parameters, σ_1 , σ_2 and one binary parameter ϵ_{12} . Calculated Henry's constants are very sensitive to σ_{12} but relatively insensitive to ϵ_{12} .

To correlate data for solubilities in 14 solvents over a wide temperature range, it was necessary to assign a temperature dependence to the parameter σ_{12} . This temperature dependence is most conveniently expressed in the form

$$\sigma_{12} = (\sigma_1 + \sigma_2)/2 \cdot \mathcal{F}(T) \tag{12}$$

For parameter σ_2 we use 0.287 nm as reported by Wilhelm and Battino (1971). For σ_1 , we use values determined from the

solubility data. From data reduction for the region 248-700°K, we obtain the generalized correlation:

$$\mathcal{F}(T) = 0.96 + 0.8536815 \times 10^{-3}\tau$$

$$+ 0.1419978 \times 10^{-5} \tau^{2}$$

$$+ 0.9024344 \times 10^{-9} \tau^3$$
 (13)

where $\tau = (T - 248.15)$, with T in degrees Kelvin. While Eq. 13

is obtained from data below $700^{\circ}K$, it gives reasonable results when extrapolated to $800^{\circ}K$.

For ϵ_{12} , we use the convenient expression:

$$\epsilon_{12} = (\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \tag{14}$$

with $\epsilon_2/k=29.2^{\circ} K$ as given by Wilhelm and Battino (1971). Calculated Henry's constants are not sensitive to the choice of ϵ_{12} .

TABLE 2. HENRY'S CONSTANTS FOR HYDROGEN; MOLAR VOLUMES AND VAPOR PRESSURES OF SOLVENTS

Toluene					n-Octane				
201010110			H,	bar	" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "			Н.	bar
<i>T</i> , °K	<i>v</i> , 10 ⁶ m³/g ⋅ mol	P, bar	calc	obs	<i>T</i> , °K −	<i>v</i> , 10 ⁶ m ³ /g · mol	<i>P</i> , bar ^a	calc	obs ^a
258.15	102.49	1.01a	4339	4383a	273.15	157.70	1.01	1758	1726
298.15	106.72	1.01a	3352	3199a	298.15	162.20	1.01	1502	1483
461.7	133.85	6.45 ⁱ	1235	1189¢	308.15	164.12	1.01	1412	1399
502.15	(146.28)	12.52 ⁱ	957	848°	Isooctane				
Methylcyc	clohexane		ш	, bar	T, °K	v , $10^6 \text{m}^3/\text{g} \cdot \text{mol}$	P, bari	H, calc	bar obs ^b
T, °K	v , $10^6 \mathrm{m}^3/\mathrm{g} \cdot \mathrm{mol}$	P, bar ⁱ	calc	obs ^b					
					423.95	202.67	3.62	701	673
424.15	152.70	(5.64)	1066	1037	471.65	228.68	8.77	499	471
471.65	167.90	(13.20)	817	723	499.35	254.06	13.64	395	404
498.65	180.23	(9.67)	663	635	Bicyclohex	yl			•
C1 D	16.1.				T, °K	a. 1063/1	P, bari		bar
Carbon D	J		H,	bar		v , 10^6 m ³ /g·mol		calc ———	obs ^e
T, °K	v , $10^6 \mathrm{m}^3/\mathrm{g} \cdot \mathrm{mol}$	P, bar ^a	calc	obs ^a	462.15	(218.55)	0.29	1066	1054
					541.85	(241.25)	2.11	757	836
248.15	55.61	1.01	9441	10498	621.75	(276.96)	9.29	536	595
273.15	57.08	1.01	8064	8058	}	,			
298.15	58.68	1.01	6854	6377	Tetralin			Н	bar
7.7					T, °K	v , $10^6 \text{m}^3/\text{g} \cdot \text{mol}$	P, bar ^d	cale	obs ^d
n-Hexane			H.	, bar					
T, °K	v , $10^6 \mathrm{m}^3/\mathrm{g} \cdot \mathrm{mol}$	P, bar ⁱ	ealc	$\mathrm{obs^h}$	462.75	(160.15)	0.68	1532	1548
					541.85	(177.29)	3.54	1080	1188
310.93	133.49	0.34	1142	1051	621.75	(205.53)	11.83	734	860
377.59	150.10	2.76	783	810	662.25	(232.06)	19.23	568	589
444.26	178.50	11.05	523	529	1-Methulne	aphthalene			
								H,	bar
n-Heptane	?		Н	, bar	T, °K	v, 10 ⁶ m³/g ⋅ mol	P, bar ^g	cale	obs ^g
T, °K	v , $10^6 \text{m}^3/\text{g} \cdot \text{mol}$	P, bar	calc	obs					
					462.15	(160.17)	0.25	1931	1939
248.15	138.97	1.01a	1970	2032a	541.85	(174.27)	1.70	1386	1332
424.15	181.71	3.80^{j}	663	679 ^b	621.75 701.65	(194.47) (230.98)	$6.42 \\ 17.56$	991 660	994 683
498.85	230.48	14.76 ^j	393	418 ^b	701.05	(250.90)	17.50	000	000
					Diphenyln	nethane		77	1
Carbon Te	etrachloride			,	T, °K	v , $10^6 \text{m}^3/\text{g} \cdot \text{mol}$	P, bar ^f	eale	bar obs ^f
T, °K	v , $10^6 \mathrm{m}^3/\mathrm{g} \cdot \mathrm{mol}$	P, bara	eale	, bar obs ^a					
	e, ro m /g · mor				462.75	(192.64)	0.14	1578	1580
273.15	94.43	1.01	3796	3899	541.85	(210.25)	1.10	1091	1165
298.15	97.11	1.01	3237	3173	621.75	(235.87)	4.79	761	826
308.15	98.26	1.01	3036	2939	701.65	(283.45)	13.50	495	471
Pangana					n-Decane			н	bar
Benzene			H	, bar	T, °K	v , $10^6 \mathrm{m}^3/\mathrm{g} \cdot \mathrm{mol}$	P, bar ^k	eale	obs ^k
T, °K	v , $10^6 \mathrm{m}^3/\mathrm{g} \cdot \mathrm{mol}$	P, bar ^a	calc	obsa					
092 15	87.98	1.01	4408	4497	462.45	243.90 264.49	1.47	690	679 527
283.15 298.15	87.98 89.47	1.01 1.01	3989	3929	503.35 542.95	264.49 293.79	$\frac{3.53}{7.22}$	$\frac{527}{400}$	537 405
308.15	90.52	1.01	3733	3611	583.45	352.41	13.55	277	274
300,10	- 5.52					~~~. **	13.50		

Equations 12 and 13 indicate that σ_{12} rises with temperature, suggesting that as the solvent expands, the high kinetic energy of the solute "digs" a larger hole for itself in the solvent.

RESULTS

Table 1 presents parameters σ_1 and ϵ_1 for fourteen solvents. Nearly constant values of σ_1 and ϵ_1 are obtained when reduced by critical properties, as shown in the last two columns of Table

Table 2 gives calculated and observed Henry's constants for hydrogen in fourteen solvents. Also shown are the molar liquid volume and the vapor pressure of the solvent. (When $x_2 = 0$, the total pressure of the system is the vapor pressure of the solvent; this pressure is needed in Eq. 5.) When these quantities are uncertain, they are placed in parentheses. Data sources are indicated at the end of Table 2.

In general, calculated and observed Henry's constants agree to within ±15% and often much better. Since large Henry's constants (small solubilities) are difficult to measure accurately, the deviations shown are, in most cases, within the experimental error. Deviations tend to be higher at high temperatures when the system temperature approaches the critical of the solvent.

The correlation presented here is most useful when solubility data are available at only a few temperatures (or possibly, only one temperature) and it is desired to predict the solubility at higher temperatures. In that case, the data (or datum) should be used to find the important parameter σ_1 . To do so, we require a value for ϵ_1 but the results are not sensitive to that value. Parameter ϵ_1 can be estimated from the critical temperature of the solvent using results shown in the final column of Table 1.

If no solubility data in a given solvent are available, it is possible to estimate solubilities in a nonpolar solvent using critical data, as indicated in the last two columns of Table 1. To illustrate, we estimate the solubility of hydrogen in meta-xylene for the region 462-582°K. Using the reduced σ_1 and reduced ε_1

TABLE 3. PREDICTED AND OBSERVED HENRY'S CONSTANTS FOR HYDROGEN IN META-XYLENE

			H, bar		
T, °K	v , $10^6 \mathrm{m}^3/\mathrm{g} \cdot \mathrm{mol}$	P, bar ^l	predicted	observed ¹	
462.4	152.64	3.20	1096	1205	
502.3	164.56	6.96	876	902	
542.6	182.03	13.21	682	608	
582.1	213.97	22.69	489	365	

- ^a Cook, M. W., D. H. Hanson, and B. J. Alder, "Solubility of Hydrogen and Deuterium in
- Cook, M. W., D. H. Hanson, and B. J. Alder, Solubility of Hydrogen and Deuterium in Nonpolar Solvents," J. Chem. Phys., 26, 748 (1957).
 Peter, S., and K. Reinhartz, "The Phase Equilibria of the Systems H₂-n-Heptane, H₂-Methylcyclohexane and H₂-2,2,4-Trimethylpentane at Higher Pressure and Temperature," Z. Physik. Chem. (Neve Folge), 24, 103 (1960).
 Simnick, J. J., H. M. Sebastian, H. M. Lin, and K. C. Chao, "Solubility of Hydrogen in Toluene at Elevated Temperatures and Pressures," J. Chem. Eng. Data, 23, 339(1978).
 Simnick, J. J., C. C. Lawson, H. M. Lin, and K. C. Chao, "Vapor-Liquid Equilibrium of Chem."
- Hydrogen/Tetralin System at Elevated Temperatures and Pressures," AIChE J., 23, 469 (1977)
- Sebastian, H. M., J. Yao, H. M. Lin, and K. C. Chao, "Gas-Liquid Equilibrium of Hydrogen/Bicyclohexyl System at Elevated Temperatures and Pressures," J. Chem.
- Eng. Data, 23, 167 (1978). Simnick, J. J., K. D. Liu, H. M. Liu, and K. C. Chao, "Gas-Liquid Equilibrium in Mixtures of Hydrogen and Diphenylmethane," Chem. Process Des. Develop., 17, 204
- (1978).
 Yao, J., H. M. Sebastian, H. M. Lin, and K. C. Chao, "Gas-Liquid Equilibria in Mixtures of Hydrogen and I-Methylnaphthalene," Fluid Phase Equilib., 1, 293(1978).
 Nichols, W. B., H. H. Reamer, and B. H. Sage, "Volumetric and Phase Behavior in the Hydrogen-n-Hexane System," AICLE J., 3, 262 (1957).
 Dobry, A., and R. Keller, "Vapor Pressures of Some Phosphate and Phosphonate Esters," J. Phys. Chem., 61, 1448 (1957).
 Timmermans, J., Les Constantes Physiques des Composés Organiques Cristallisés, Paris Masson (1953).
 Sabartina H. M. L. I. Simpick H. M. Lin, and K. C. Chao, "Cas Liquid Familibrium in

- * Sebastian, H. M., J. J. Simnick, H. M. Lin, and K. C. Chao, "Gas-Liquid Equilibrium in the Hydrogen + n-Decane System at Elevated Temperatures and Pressures," J. Chem. Eng. Data, 25, 68 (1980).
- Simnick, J. J., H. M. Sebastian, H. M. Lin, and K. C. Chao, "Gas-Liquid Equilibrium in Mixtures of Hydrogen + m-Xylene and + m-Cresol," *J. Chem. Thermodyn.*, 11, 531

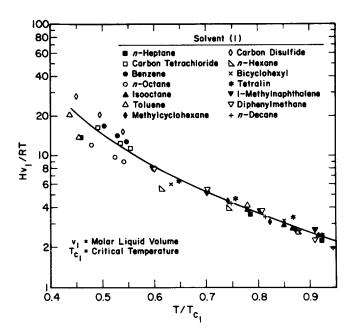


Figure 2. Reduced Henry's constants for hydrogen.

values for benzene and toluene, we estimate that for metaxylene:

$$10^{9}\sigma_{1}(P_{c}/RT_{c})^{1/3} = 5.29$$

$$\epsilon_{1}/kT_{c} = 1.08$$

For meta-xylene, the critical pressure is 35.41 bars and the critical temperature is 617.05°K. We obtain

$$\sigma_1 = 0.599 \text{ nm} \text{ and } \epsilon_1/k = 663^{\circ}\text{K}$$

Using these parameters, Henry's constants were calculated as shown in Table 3. Also shown are experimental results; these were not used in preparing the correlation. Calculated and experimental Henry's constants are in fair agreement.

Although only nonpolar solvents are considered here, scaled particle theory for gas solubilities is also applicable to polar solvents, as discussed elsewhere (Pierotti, 1976; Wilhelm and Battino, 1971).

For a fixed gas dissolved in nonpolar solvents, the scaledparticle theory suggests a simplification based on corresponding-states arguments. We assume that at modest pressures

$$v_1/\sigma_1^3$$
 = function of T/T_{c_1}

and further, that

$$\epsilon_{12}/kT_{c_1} = a$$
 constant.

At modest pressures, the final terms in Eqs. 6 to 9 contribute little to \tilde{g}_c . Therefore, scaled-particle theory suggests that:

$$\ln \frac{Hv_1}{RT} = \text{function of } T/T_{c_1}.$$

To test this suggestion, Figure 2 shows a semilogarithmic plot of reduced Henry's constant Hv_1/RT versus reduced temperature T/T_{c_1} for hydrogen in 14 nonpolar solvents. Considering the simplicity of the correlation method, the data correlate surprisingly well.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors are grateful to the National Science Foundation for financial support.

NOTATION

$$\overline{E}_i$$
 = partial molar energy

= fugacity ĝ = partial molar Gibbs energy g H = radial distribution function = Henry's constant k = Boltzmann's constant K $= y_2/x_2$ K_0 , K_1 , K_2 , K_3 = functions given by Eqs. 5-9 = total pressure P_c = critical pressure = intermolecular distance R = gas constant T= absolute temperature T_{c} = critical temperature = liquid-phase mole fraction \boldsymbol{x} = vapor-phase mole fraction y = molar volume v= potential energy parameter ϵ γ^* = liquid-phase activity coefficient φ = vapor-phase fugacity coefficient σ ξ = molecular diameter

= reduced density

= density (molecules per unit volume)

LITERATURE CITED

Hankinson, R. W., and G. H. Thompson, "A New Correlation for Saturated Densities of Liquids and Their Mixtures," AIChE J., 25,

Pierotti, R. A., "Aqueous Solutions of Nonpolar Gases," J. Phys. Chem., 69, 281 (1963).

Pierotti, R. A., "A Scaled Particle Theory of Aqueous and Nonaqueous Solutions," *Chemical Reviews*, 76, 717 (1976).

Prausnitz, J. M., Thermodynamics of Fluid-Phase Equilibria, Chapter 5, Prentice-Hall (1969).

Prausnitz, J. M., E. A. Grens, T. F. Anderson, C. A. Eckert, R. Hsieh, and J. P. O'Connell, Computer Calculations for Multicomponent Vapor-Liquid and Liquid-Liquid Equilibria, Appendix C, Prentice-

Hall (1980) Reiss, H., H. L. Frisch, and J. L. Lebowitz, "Statistical Mechanics of Rigid Spheres," J. Chem. Phys., 31, 369 (1959).

Reiss, H., H. L. Frisch, E. Helfand, and J. L. Lebowitz, "Aspects of the Statistical Thermodynamics of Real Fluids," J. Chem. Phys., 32, 119

Wilhelm, E., and R. Battino, "The Solubility of Gases in Liquids," J. Chem. Thermodynamics, 3, 371 (1971).

Manuscript received March 11, 1980; revision received and accepted July 9, 1980.

Simultaneous Reactions of CO, NO and O₂ in a Tubular Reactor

N. JOTHI and

A. VARMA

Department of Chemical Engineering University of Notre Dame Notre Dame, IN 46556

INTRODUCTION

Strict federal regulations on automotive exhaust emissions make it necessary to remove carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons (HC) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) by using so-called threeway catalysts. In automotive exhausts, CO and HC are reducing species, while NO_x and O₂ are oxidizing species. A desired characteristic of a three-way catalyst is that it preferentially favors reactions of the reducing species (i.e., CO and HC) with NO_x rather than with O_2 . The actual number of reacting species and reactions possible in automotive three-way catalysis is very large; however, some basic factors involved in catalyst design can be understood by considering only the following two reactions:

$$2CO + O_2 \xrightarrow{k_1} 2CO_2 \tag{1}$$

$$2CO + 2NO \xrightarrow{k_2} 2CO_2 + N_2$$
 (2)

For the CO-NO-O2 system, using an iridium catalyst, Tauster and Murrell (1976) found that under net oxidizing conditions, conversion of NO becomes independent of catalyst loading, and pointed out that this metal concentration-invariant behavior should apply to any catalyst provided that temperature or contact time were high enough for essentially complete CO conversion. Schlatter and Taylor (1977) also observed similar behavior using a rhodium catalyst. The former authors have also attempted to explain this behavior using approximate and numerical approaches (Tauster and Murrell, 1978).

In a recent paper, Hegedus et al. (1979) considered these reactions in an integral plug-flow reactor, under both rich (CO in

Correspondence concerning this paper should be addressed to A. Varma

0001-1541-81-4394-0848-\$2.00. The American Institute of Chemical Engineers,

excess) and lean (NO_x and O₂ in excess) conditions, when the catalyst is equally selective for both reactions (k = 1). In this note, we consider the case of arbitrary selectivity, and specifically cases where the catalyst is more selective for the second reaction—as with rhodium and iridium catalysts. For example, Tauster and Murrell (1976) found partition factors of 2.8 and 4.5 in favor of the second reaction for iridium catalysts. We also report analytic solutions for values of k = 2 and 3.

BASIC EQUATIONS

Consider an isothermal plug-flow reactor, with simple bimolecular reaction kinetics and no diffusional limitations. To conserve space, the nomenclature of Hegedus et al. (1979) is used. In their notation, then, the relevant conservation equations in dimensionless form are:

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = kR(1-x)(1-y) + (S-R)(1-x)w$$
 (3a)

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = k(1-x)(1-y) \tag{3b}$$

$$\frac{dw}{dt} = -(1 - x)w \tag{3c}$$

with initial conditions at t = 0:

$$x = 0, \quad y = 0, \quad w = 1$$
 (4)

The various symbols are defined in the Notation. It is important, however, to note here that x and y are CO and NO conversions respectively, and w is the dimensionless O_2 concentration along the reactor length, t. Also by definition,