Vapor Pressure of Carbon Dioxide and Solubility of Nitrous Oxide in Aqueous Solutions of Carbon Dioxide Loaded Methyldiethanolamine

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The objective of the work presented here is to measure the total solubility of CO<sub>2</sub> in 50 mass % MDEA solutions over a wide range in temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure and to measure the physical solubility of N<sub>2</sub>O in these solutions as a function of the CO<sub>2</sub>-loading. Haimour and Sandall (1984) showed that predictions of physical solubility and diffusivity using the nitrous oxide analogy method can be used to predict absorption rates of CO<sub>2</sub> into aqueous MDEA under conditions of very short contact times where the chemical reaction does not affect the absorption rates.

### 2. EXPERIMENTAL

Figure 1 shows a schematic drawing of the modified Zipperclave reactor used in this work. The reactor consists of a one liter stainless steel cylindrical tank with an air-driven magnetically coupled stirrer on the top. There are valves for inlet of gas and liquid, and a connection to a vacuum pump. A thermocouple inserted in the cell measures the temperature to an accuracy of  $\pm 0.1$ °C. The pressure is measured by a pressure transducer with an accuracy of  $\pm 0.02$  psi.

Initially a weighed sample of approximately 500g liquid is sucked into the reactor. The temperature is then adjusted to the desired value through use of the external heating jackets. A vacuum is then pulled on the reactor so that the liquid exists under its own vapor pressure. This solution vapor pressure, P,, is measured. A known quantity of CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>CO2</sub>, is transferred to the reactor from a gas container of known volume

$$N_{CO_2} = \frac{V_T}{RT_a} (z_1 P_1 - z_2 P_2)$$

where  $V_T$  is the volume of the gas container,  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  are the compressibility

factors corresponding to the initial pressure,  $P_1$ , and the final pressure,  $P_2$  in the gas container before and after transferring the  $CO_2$  and  $T_a$ , is the ambient temperature. After transferring the  $CO_2$  to the reactor, the stirrer is turned on and equilibrium is attained in about 10 minutes.

#### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This equilibrium pressure  $P_{CO2}$  (=  $P_{T1}$ - $P_v$ ) is measured and the moles of  $CO_2$  remaining in the gas phase is determined from

$$N^{g}_{CO_{2}} = P_{T_{2}} - P_{CO_{2}} - P_{v}$$

The moles of CO<sub>2</sub> in the liquid is then determined from

$$N^{l}_{CO_2} = N_{CO_2} - N^{g}_{CO_2}$$

The CO<sub>2</sub>-loading in the liquid phase is defined as

$$L_{CO_2} = \frac{N^l_{CO_2}}{N_{Am}}$$

where N<sub>Am</sub> is the moles of MDEA in the liquid phase.

$$N_{Am} = \frac{W_{MDEA} \rho V_i}{M_{MDEA}}$$

To measure the solubility of  $N_2O$  in the  $CO_2$ -loaded solutions a known quantity of  $N_2O$  is transferred to the Zipperclave reactor containing the  $CO_2$ -loaded amine from a gas container. The mass of  $N_2O$  transferred is determined in the same manner as for  $CO_2$ . After transferring  $N_2O$  to the reactor, the stirrer is turned on. An equilibrium is achieved after about 10 minutes and the total pressure,  $P_{T2}$ , is measured. The partial pressure of  $N_2O$ ,  $P_{N2O}$ , is calculated from

$$P_{N_2O} = P_{T_2} - P_{CO_2} - P_v$$

The moles of N<sub>2</sub>O in the gas phase are determined from P<sub>N2O</sub> by

$$N^{g}_{N_{2}O} = \frac{z_{N_{2}O}P_{N_{2}O}V_{g}}{RT}$$

# 4. CONCLUSION

The nitrous oxide analogy method may be used with the  $H_{N2O}$  data presented here to estimate the physical solubility ofd  $CO_2$  as a function of temperature and  $CO_2$ -loading. They physical solubility of  $CO_2$  is the key physicochemical property needed to calculate  $CO_2$  mass transfer rates.

In this investigation, we have measured the total solubility of  $CO_2$  as a function of partial pressure of  $CO_2$  in 50 mass % MDEA solutions over a wide temperature range. These data should be useful for the design of absorption columns using MDEA to remove  $CO_2$ .

# REFERENCES

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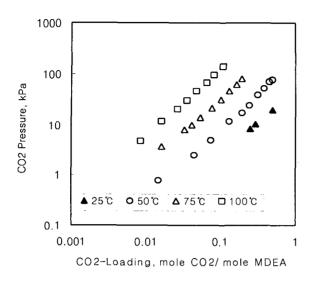


Fig. 2. Solubility of CO<sub>2</sub> in 50 mass % MDEA solution.

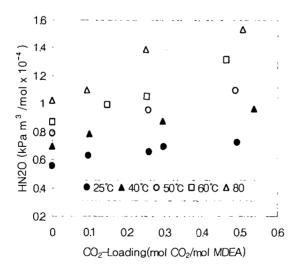


Fig. 3. Henry's constant for  $N_2O$  in 50 mass % MDEA as a function of  $CO_2$  loading.