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Moisture transport in silica gel packed beds—II. Experimental study

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Abstract—Experiments have been performed to obtain the transient response of a thin adiabatic packed bed of silica gel after a step change in inlet air conditions. Comparisons are made with predictions using a solid-side resistance model and a pseudo-gas-side controlled model and better agreement obtained with the former model. An apparent dynamic hysteresis for adsorption/desorption with microporous silica gel is clearly in evidence, which could be due to a solid-side effective diffusion coefficient which decreases with increasing moisture content, or to a lesser extent to a hysteresis in the adsorption isotherm itself.

1. INTRODUCTION

PART I of this series [1] reported an analytical study of the transient response of thin silica gel packed beds to a step change in inlet air humidity or temperature. Special attention was given to moisture transport within the silica gel particles since earlier investigators [2–4] showed that the solid-side moisture transfer resistance is generally larger than the gas-side resistance. A model which accounts for both Knudson and surface diffusions of moisture within the particles was proposed and incorporated into a simultaneous heat and mass transfer model for predicting the transient response of thin silica gel packed beds. The model is called the solid-side resistance (SSR) model and includes both solid- and gas-side resistances. The predictions of the SSR model were compared with predictions of the widely used pseudo-gas-side controlled (PGC) model. In the PGC model the overall mass transfer from the air stream to the silica gel is represented by a gas-side coefficient which is reduced to account for solid-side resistance.

Part II of this series describes an experimental program which obtained data for the evaluation of the analytical models. A bench-scale test rig was built, and adsorption and desorption experiments performed on microporous regular density (RD) and macroporous intermediate density (ID) silica gel in adiabatic thin packed beds. Section 2 describes the experimental rig, instrumentation, procedure, and test materials; Section 3 presents the results and a discussion. Section 4 presents our conclusions.

2. EXPERIMENTAL METHOD

2.1. *Apparatus*

A schematic of the experimental system is shown in Fig. 1. The system consists of a dryer, an air heater, a humidifier, a blower, a heat exchanger, and a desiccant bed in a test chamber. The dryer, air heater and humidifier are used to generate the desired inlet air conditions for the test chamber; the air heater is also used to regenerate the silica gel both in the test chamber and in the dryer.

The dryer used to provide dry air for step change experiments is a stainless steel cylinder 0.55 m high, and 0.19 m in diameter. A packing height of 0.42 m of 3–8 mesh RD silica gel (Davison, Grade 01) is used. A computer code [3, 4, 6] was used to design the dryer and for prediction of its performance. The dryer can be isolated from the system by closing valves 2 and 4.

The air heater is used to regenerate the silica gel in both the test chamber and the dryer. It is a commercial 1.5 kW electrical heater manufactured by Pacific Chromalox. It consists of two electrical heating elements contained in a well-insulated stainless steel casing. The outlet air temperature can be controlled by controlling the power supplied to the heater with an AC Variac.

The humidifier for providing humid air for the experiments is a cast acrylic cylinder 0.73 m high with a 0.72 m inside diameter, packed with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch ceramic Berl saddles. The height of the packing in the original design was 0.5 m. However, after some preliminary tests the height was reduced to 0.25 m for better control of humidity. The packing is supported by a perforated acrylic plate. The process air enters from below and contacts with water sprayed on top of the packing. Tap water is fed to the top of the packing. The humidifier can be removed from the system by closing valves 5 and 7.

Air flow is provided by a positive displacement rotary blower manufactured by Gardner–Denver (model 2PDR) with a capacity range of 1.4×10^{-3}–$0.1\ m^3 s^{-1}$. The blower is driven by a 3 HP, 230 VAC, three phase induction motor, through a belt and pulley system. The blower capacity can be changed by operating at different shaft speeds using different

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NOMENCLATURE

a	average pore radius
A	cross-sectional area of bed
c_l	specific heat of liquid water
$c_{p,e}$	constant pressure specific heat of humid air
c_{pl}	constant pressure specific heat of water vapor
DAR	desiccant to air ratio, $\rho_b AL/\dot{m}_G\tau$ [dimensionless]
D	total diffusivity
D^*	$D\tau/R^2$ [dimensionless]
D_K	Knudsen diffusion coefficient
D_S	surface diffusion coefficient
g	equilibrium isotherm, $\rho m_1 = g(W, T)$
$g'(W)$	derivative of equilibrium isotherm, $\rho(\partial m_1/\partial W)_T$
h_c	convective heat transfer coefficient
H_{ads}	heat of adsorption
ID	intermediate density (macroporous)
K_G	gas-side mass transfer coefficient
$K_{G,eff}$	effective mass transfer coefficient
L	length of bed
m_1	water vapor mass fraction [kg water/kg humid air]
$\dot{m}_G$	mass flow rate of gas mixture
N_{tu}	number of transfer units, $K_G L/\dot{m}_G$ or $K_{G,eff}\ L/\dot{m}_G$ [dimensionless]
P	pressure
PGC	pseudo-gas-side controlled
p	perimeter of bed
r	radial coordinate in a particle
r^*	r/R [dimensionless]
R	particle radius
R	H_2O gas constant
Re	Reynolds number, $2RV/v$ [dimensionless]
RD	regular density (microporous)
RH	relative humidity, P_1/P_{sat} [dimensionless]
SSR	solid-side resistance
t	time
t^*	dimensionless time, t/τ [dimensionless]
T	temperature
V	superficial velocity of air
W	desiccant water content [kg water/kg dry desiccant]
z	axial distance
z^*	z/L [dimensionless].

Greek symbols

β	$\rho_p D/K_G R$ [dimensionless]
ε	porosity [dimensionless]
v	kinematic viscosity
ρ	density of humid air
ρ_p	particle density
τ	duration of experimental run
τ_g	tortuosity factor for intraparticle gas diffusion [dimensionless]
τ_s	tortuosity factor for intraparticle surface diffusion [dimensionless].

Subscripts

0	initial value
1	water vapor
2	dry air
avg	average value
b	bed; bulk
e	surrounding humid air
eff	effective value
K	Knudsen diffusion
in	inlet value
out	outlet value
p	particle
S	surface diffusion
s	s-surface, in gas phase adjacent to gel particles, or dry solid phase of the bed
sat	saturation.

pulleys, and/or by varying the rate of air bypass, i.e. controlling valve 1. Since the blower blows the air through the system, all components are under a slight pressure.

The test chamber is a 0.13 m i.d. Pyrex glass cylinder with a wall thickness of 6.5 mm. The test chamber has three sections: the main section, a top section, and a lower section. Air enters through the top, passes through a flow straightener of about 0.18 m height of Berl saddle packing to provide a uniform flow before entering the silica gel bed. The uniformity of flow was satisfactory as checked with a hot wire anemometer. The silica gel bed is supported by a copper screen, which, in turn, is supported by the lower section of the test chamber. The height of the bed is varied by adding more or less silica gel from the top of the test chamber. To approximate the adiabatic operation, the test chamber is insulated with fiberglass during testing.

The purpose of the heat exchanger is to cool the hot process air after adsorption to a dry bulb temperature in the useful range of the hygrometer sensor used for measuring humidity. The heat exchanger consists of a copper coil welded to an aluminum cylindrical casing. Tap water is fed to the top of the coil and the process air is passed through the aluminum cylinder cocurrently with the water. The system components are connected through 1.25

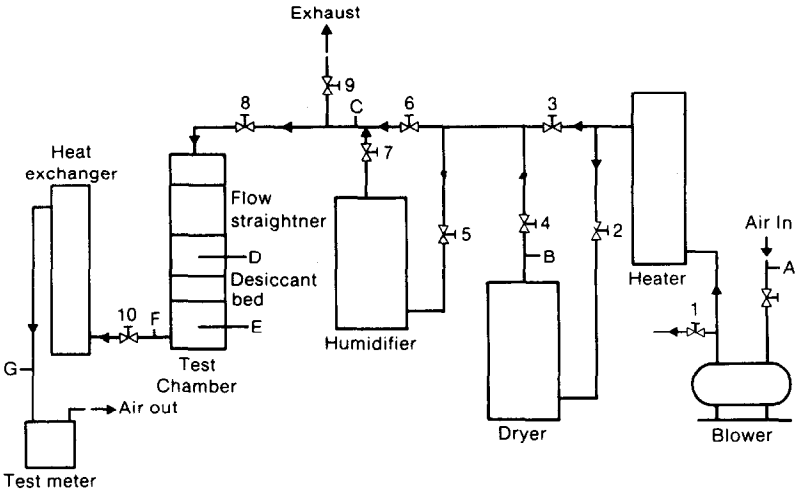

FIG. 1. Experimental system schematic.

inch (o.d.) galvanized pipes and 1.5 inch rubber hose connectors. The pipes are insulated for better temperature control and to reduce heat loss during regeneration.

2.2. *Instrumentation*

The volume flow is determined by a calibrated Rockwell Testmeter (model No. 415). Associated air pressure and temperature measurements are made using a mercury manometer and thermocouple, respectively, to convert volume flow water rate to mass flow rate. A standard ASME orifice system with required manometer calibrated the Testmeter. The expected error in measurement of air flow rate is less than 3%.

The pressure drops across the desiccant bed, dryer and humidifier are measured using water manometers. The air temperatures upstream (at station D) and downstream (at station E) of the bed, outlet from the humidifier (at station C), and outlet from the dryer (at station B) are measured using dry thermocouples made from 30 gauge (o.d. = 0.25 mm) type K, chromel–alumel wires. Chromel–alumel thermocouples were chosen because of their resistance to corrosion in water and humid air, and also for their low conductivity so as to reduce lead conduction errors. The dry thermocouples are provided with radiation shields for reduction of radiation losses and the readings corrected where appropriate. The expected error in temperature measurement is less than 0.5°C.

The relative humidity of the process air is measured using a hygrometer measured by Weather Measure Corp. (Model HMS-14) with a single dielectric polymer sensor with a very short response time (90% of final relative humidity in 1 s). The sensor of the hygrometer can be mounted at several locations (stations C, F and G) in the system for various purposes. At each mounting station a thermocouple junction is provided for measurement of temperature along with measurement of relative humidity so that the water vapor concentration can be calculated. A resistance type hygrometer manufactured by Hydrodynamics Inc. (Model 15-3001) is also used with sensors appropriate to different humidity ranges. These sensors have a slower response than the Weather Measure sensor and thus are used for measurement of uniform humidities from the dryer or humidifier to the desiccant bed. The bed outlet humidity measurement was corrected for time lag due to the distance between the bed outlet and the measuring station. The error in measurement of relative humidity is 3%. Considering other errors in measurement of temperature and total pressure the estimated error in measurement of water vapor mass fraction is less than 6%.

All thermocouple junctions are spot welded and connected to a millivolt recorder and a cold junction compensator manufactured by Fluke Company (model 2240A Datalogger). The voltage outputs of all the thermocouples and the hygrometers are recorded simultaneously at a preprogrammed time interval by the Datalogger.

2.3. *Procedure*

Tests were performed to determine the transient response of thin silica gel packed beds to a step change in inlet conditions. A bed of known initial water content and temperature was prepared using the heater of humidifier, and then sealed. Commencing at time $t = 0$ process air with selected constant humidity and temperature was passed through the bed. The outlet air conditions (temperature and relative humidity) from the bed were measured as a function of time and the data collected. Two types of experiments were performed, namely, adsorption and desorption. In adsorption experiments, the initial bed water content is lower than the equilibrium value corresponding to the process air, i.e. $W_0 < W$ ($m_{1,in}$,

Table 1. Bed and flow conditions for the experiments

Test No.	Gel type	Process†	R (10^{-3} m)	L (10^{-3} m)	W_0	T_0 (°C)	$m_{1,in}$	T_{in} (°C)	V (m s^{-1})	Re	N_{tu}‡	DAR	τ (s)
1	RD	AD	1.94	77.5	0.0417	23.3	0.0100	23.3	0.21	49.30	22.65	0.1285	1800
4	RD	AD	1.94	75.0	0.0410	24.2	0.0105	24.2	0.32	78.60	18.74	0.0819	1800
6	RD	AD	1.94	75.0	0.0450	22.1	0.0088	22.1	0.55	150.9	14.25	0.0547	1500
7	RD	AD	1.27	65.0	0.0410	24.7	0.0106	24.7	0.39	70.0	26.29	0.0604	1800
21	RD	AD	0.435	45.0	0.0640	20.2	0.0088	20.6	0.30	16.34	98.61	0.0554	1800
24	RD	AD	2.60	50.0	0.0668	22.6	0.0109	25.6	0.40	129.8	7.62	0.0440	1800
25	RD	DE	2.60	50.0	0.260	25.4	0.0007	25.4	0.67	218.5	6.12	0.039	1200
29	RD	DE	2.60	50.0	0.368	25.0	0.0051	23.9	0.40	131.0	7.59	0.042	1800
30	RD	DE	2.60	50.0	0.370	23.8	0.0090	23.5	0.65	205.0	6.28	0.040	1200
35	RD	DE	0.33	30.0	0.220	24.3	0.0008	24.3	0.28	11.32	101.1	0.040	1800
13	ID	AD	1.94	77.5	0.0088	23.7	0.0097	23.6	0.45	109.47	16.85	0.050	1200
14	ID	AD	1.94	77.5	0.0084	23.3	0.0074	23.3	0.18	44.0	24.70	0.0813	1860
17	ID	AD	1.94	77.5	0.005	24.4	0.0063	24.4	0.67	164.19	14.21	0.033	1200

†AD: adsorption; DE: desorption.
‡This value of N_{tu} is for the SSR model, N_{tu} for the PGC model is about 1/3.4 of this value.

T_{in}, P). In desorption experiments, the initial bed water content is higher than the equilibrium value corresponding to the process air, i.e. $W_0 > W$ ($m_{1,in}$, T_{in}, P). The experiments were terminated after 20–30 min which is typical of cycle times between adsorption and desorption processes encountered in operation of dehumidifiers in desiccant cooling systems. The collected data were converted to engineering units and plotted and compared with the model predictions as shown in Section 3.

2.4. *Test material*

Both microporous silica gel (RD, Davison Grades 01, 03, 40 and 408) and macroporous silica gel (ID, Davison Grade 59) were tested to investigate the effect of average pore diameter and equilibrium isotherm on bed performance. The major difference in various grades of RD gel is their range of particle size. It is reasonable to assume that the solid-side resistances varies with gel particle size and thus a wide range of gel sizes was tested (0.6–5 mm in diameter). Since the particle size range in some of the grades is wide, they were sieved to obtain a narrow range of particle size. The average pore sizes supplied by the manufacturer are 11 Å for RD gel, and 68 Å for ID gel.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Thirty-five tests were performed: due to space limitations only the results of selected tests are used here to evaluate the validity of the theoretical models. Table 1 summarizes the pertinent parameters of the tests. We have presented 13 tests to show the results for two types of gel, adsorption and desorption cases, various particle sizes, and initial and inlet air conditions. The outlet air temperature and outlet water vapor mass fraction as functions of time after a step change in inlet air conditions to the bed are shown by symbols in Figs. 2–15 for thirteen tests. Predictions using both the SSR model and the PGC model are also shown in these figures by solid lines. For convenience the essential differences between these models are summarized in Table 2.

3.1. *Adsorption on regular density silica gel*

Figures 2–7 show results for adsorption tests with RD gel. The general trends of the curves for the experimental results and the theoretical predictions are similar and are explained in Part I for this series [1]. Unless otherwise specified equation (A1) was used for the equilibrium isotherm and equation (A3) for the heat of adsorption in the predictions. Equation (A6) was used for the effective surface diffusion coefficient. Since the parameter $D_{0,eff}$ had not been previously established for the H_2O–silica gel system, we determined a suitable value by making calculations for a range of $D_{0,eff}$ values and comparing predictions with experiment: Figs. 3 and 4 show typical results of such predictions. Based on a number of such comparisons a value of $D_{0,eff} = 1.6 \times 10^{-6}$ m^2 s^{-1} was chosen [5]. Theoretical predictions with the SSR model were not made for tests on gel particles of 0.87 mm radius and smaller: the large values of N_{tu} for these tests required a large number of time and spatial node points to avoid numerical instability and thus the computational cost was prohibitive.

By comparing predictions with experiments the following general observations can be made. Predictions of $m_{1,out}$ using the SSR model are generally superior to those of the PGC model, especially at small times. The initial slopes of the $m_{1,out}$ curves from the SSR model are steeper than those of the PGC model and usually matches the experimental results. The PGC model usually underpredicts the experimental $m_{1,out}$, i.e. more water is adsorbed due to less mass transfer resistance. In most of the experiments the measured T_{out} is within the range of the predicted values of both SSR and PGC models; at small times the agreement with the SSR model is generally better. The SSR model tends to predict peak values of T_{out} which are higher than those for the PGC model whose peaks occur earlier.

Table 2. Differences between the SSR and PGC models

Model	Solid phase mass balance equation	Parameters for solution	Equilibrium condition
PGC	$\frac{\partial W_{avg}}{\partial t^*} = -\frac{N_{tu}}{DAR}(m_{1,s} - m_{1,e})$	$N_{tu} = \frac{K_{G,eff}pL}{\dot{m}_G}$; $DAR = \frac{\rho_b AL}{\dot{m}_G \tau}$	$\rho m_{1,s} = g(W_{avg}, T_s, P)$
	Initial condition: $W_{avg}(t^* = 0, z^*) = W_0$; No boundary conditions	$K_{G,eff} = 0.704\rho V Re^{-0.51}$ $h_c = 0.683\rho V Re^{-0.51}$	
SSR	$\frac{\partial W}{\partial t^*} = \frac{1}{r^{*2}}\frac{\partial}{\partial r^*}\left(r^{*2}D^*\frac{\partial W}{\partial r^*}\right)$	$D^* = D\frac{\tau}{R^2}$; $\beta = \frac{D\rho_p}{K_G R}$	$\rho m_{1,s} = g[W(r^* = 1), T_s, P]$
		$D = D_{S,eff} + D_{K,eff}\frac{g'(W)}{\rho_p}$	
		$K_G = 1.7\rho V Re^{-0.42}$ $h_c = 1.6\rho V Re^{-0.42}$	
	Initial condition: $W(t^* = 0, z^*, r^*) = W_0$ Boundary conditions: $\left.\frac{\partial W}{\partial r^*}\right\|_{r^*=0} = 0$ $-\beta\left.\frac{\partial W}{\partial r^*}\right\|_{r^*=1} = (m_{1,s} - m_{1,e})$		

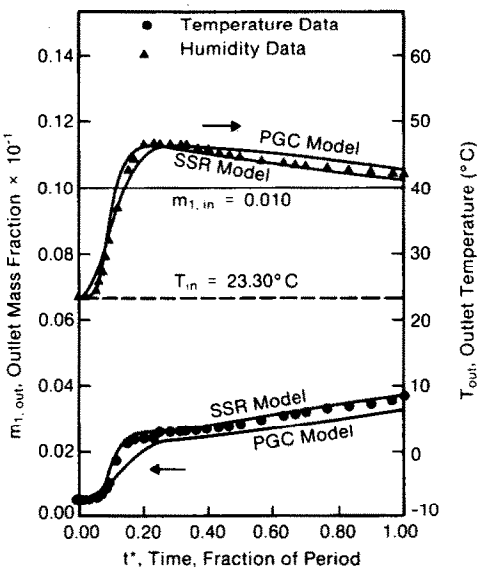

FIG. 2. Comparison of experimental and predicted results for Test 1.

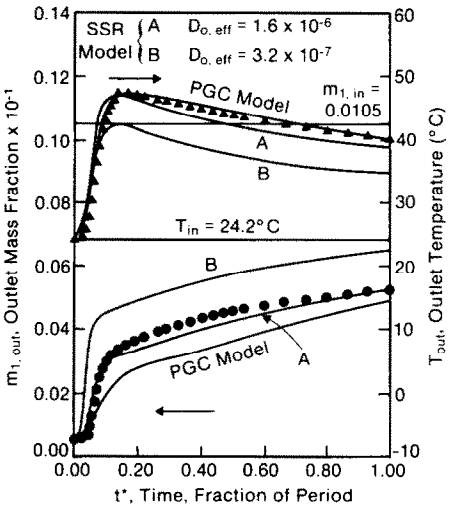

FIG. 3. Comparison of experimental and predicted results for Test 4; also effect of $D_{0,eff}$.

3.2. *Desorption from regular density gel*

Figures 8–11 show results for desorption tests on RD gel. Again the theoretical predictions using both models follow the general trend of the experimental results. Again equations (A1) and (A3) are used for the equilibrium isotherm and heat of adsorption, respectively. For the moisture diffusivity, equations (A5) and (A8) are used, i.e. only surface diffusion is considered for RD gel. Figures 12–14 show that $D_{0,eff} = 0.8 \times 10^{-6}\,m^2\,s^{-1}$ gives a better match with experiment than the value of 1.6×10^{-6} used for the adsorption experiments. The lower value of $D_{0,eff}$ increases the solid-side resistance and thus decreases the desorption rate: $m_{1,out}$ is overpredicted by both models (even when the reduced value of $D_{0,eff}$ is used in the SSR mode), while T_{out} is predicted satisfactorily by the SSR model, and is underpredicted by the PGC model. The prediction of $m_{1,out}$ by the PGC model matches better than that by the SSR model for Test 25 (Fig. 8), while the reverse is true for Tests 29 and 30 (Figs. 9 and 10), when $D_{0,eff} = 0.8 \times 10^{-6}\,m^2\,s^{-1}$ is used in the SSR model. A theoretical prediction for Test 35 (Fig. 11) using the SSR model was not obtained owing to a prohibitive computer cost associated with the large N_{tu} value. For this test the PGC model predicts T_{out} satisfactorily, while $m_{1,out}$ is again over-

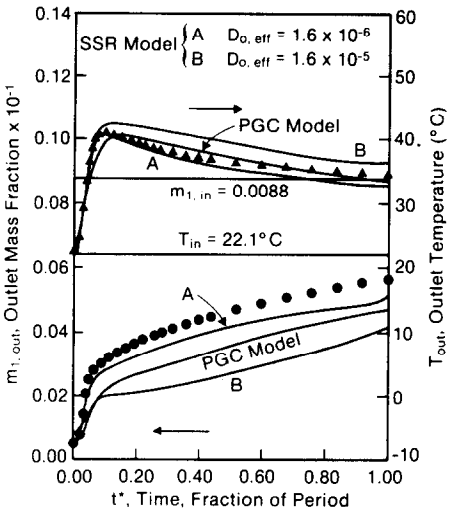

FIG. 4. Comparison of experimental and predicted results for Test 6; also effect of $D_{o,eff}$.

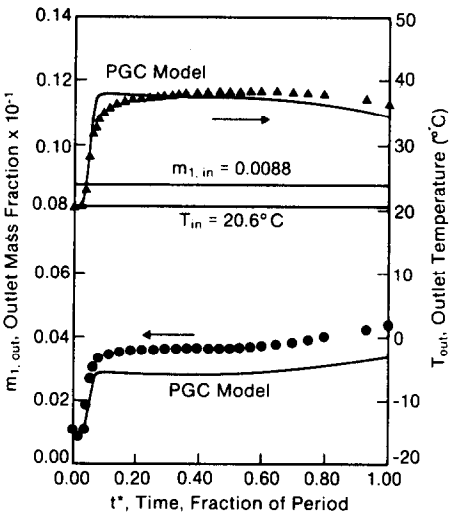

FIG. 6. Comparison of experimental and predicted results for Test 21.

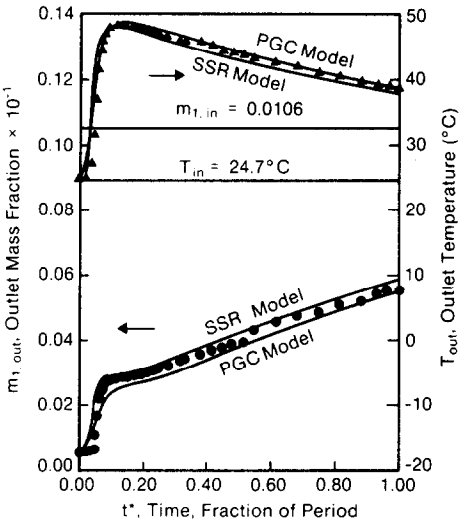

FIG. 5. Comparison of experimental and predicted results for Test 7.

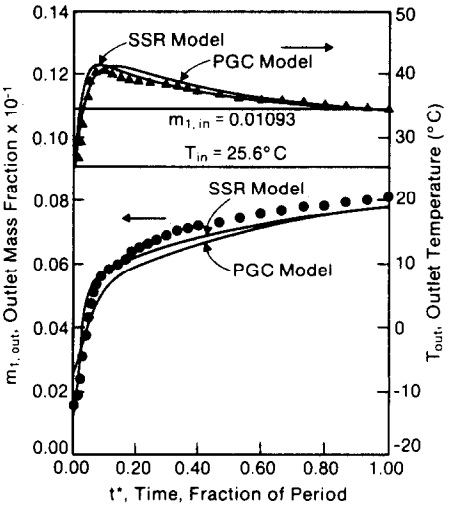

FIG. 7. Comparison of experimental and predicted results for Test 24.

predicted. The discrepancy between predictions of the SSR and PGC models in Figs. 8–10 is because they differ fundamentally as can be seen from Table 2.

It is clear that there is a fundamental difference between the behavior of the bed during adsorption and desorption. For example, the experimental responses of an adsorption test (No. 24) and a desorption test (No. 29) with similar bed and flow conditions shown in Fig. 12 present this difference. As discussed in Part I [1], the SSR model shows that there should be a difference due to concentration dependence of $D_{s,eff}$ in Sladek's theory, equation (A8): initial rates of desorption should be higher than initial rates of adsorption with all other pertinent parameters the same. However, a comparison of figures shows that exactly the opposite is true. Furthermore, our comparison of predictions with experiments has shown that solid-side effective diffusion coefficients appear to be one half of those for adsorption. The input to SSR model lack essential features: either there is a marked hysteresis in the adsorption isotherm, or solid-side effective diffusion coefficients decrease with increasing gel moisture content W. Indeed, Kruckels [1,9] found it necessary to include such a feature in correlating his experimental data for adsorption on RD gels at low moisture contents, as discussed in Part I of this series. The isotherm of RD gel does not usually show a strong hysteresis (e.g. see refs. [7, 8]). However, a decrease of the solid-side effective diffusion coefficient with increasing gel moisture content is quite possible. The negative exponential dependence of $D_{s,eff}$ in equation (A8) is due to the decrease of heat of adsorption with increasing moisture content and has a rational basis; hence, one must look

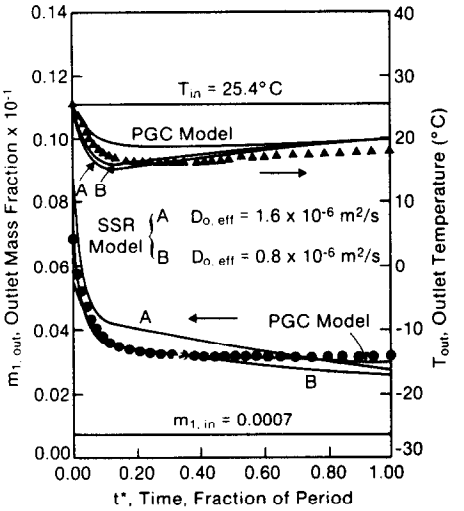

FIG. 8. Comparison of experimental and predicted results for Test 25.

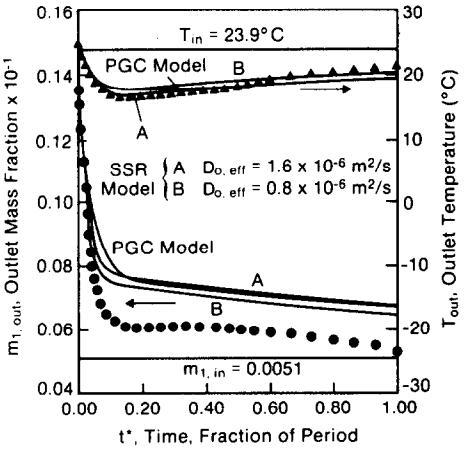

FIG. 9. Comparison of experimental and predicted results for Test 29.

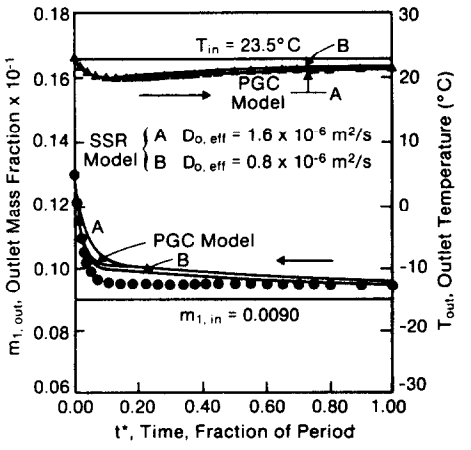

FIG. 10. Comparison of experimental and predicted results for Test 30.

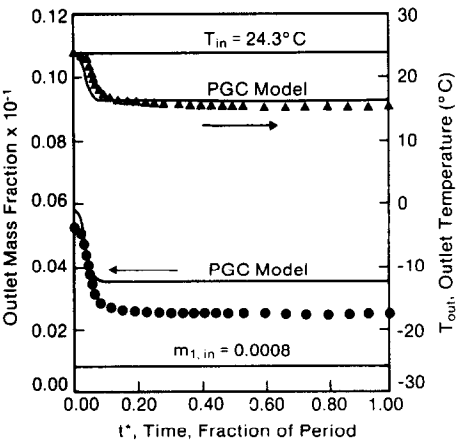

FIG. 11. Comparison of experimental and predicted results for Test 35.

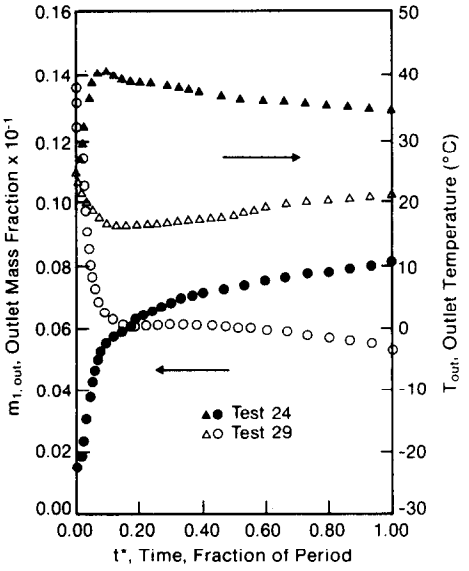

FIG. 12. Comparison of an adsorption and a desorption test.

elsewhere for an explanation. A similar behavior (i.e. good agreement for adsorption and poor agreement for desorption) was observed by Barlow [10] and thus this apparent dynamic hysteresis can now be regarded as a firmly established feature of RD silica gel behavior. Further experiments are needed, in which the initial gel moisture content is varied over a wide range so as to resolve whether the apparent dynamic hysteresis is due to a gel moisture content dependent effective surface diffusion coefficient, or whether there is a more fundamental difference between the adsorption and desorption processes on a molecular scale. It should be noted that an effective porosity which decreases with increasing moisture content is not an unreasonable explanation.

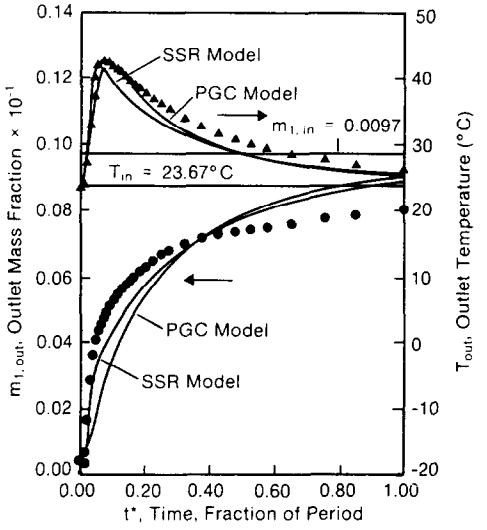

FIG. 13. Comparison of experimental and predicted results for Test 13.

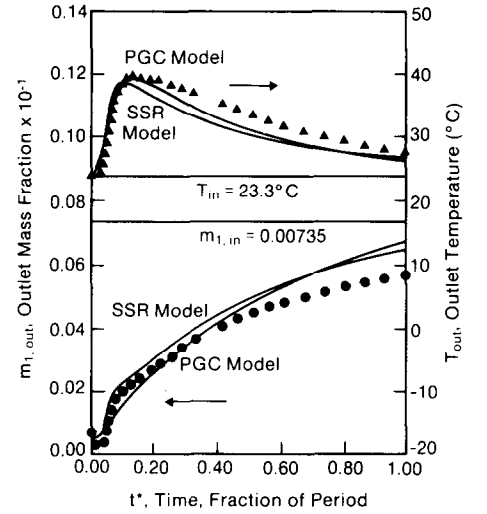

FIG. 14. Comparison of experimental and predicted results for Test 14.

3.3. *Adsorption on intermediate density silica gel*

The results for adsorption on ID gel are shown in Figs. 13–15. Equations (A2) and (A4) were used for the equilibrium isotherm and heat of adsorption, respectively. For the moisture diffusivity equations (A6)–(A8) are used, i.e. both Knudsen and surface diffusion are considered for ID gel. The $D_{0,eff}$ value used was the same as that established for adsorption on RD gel, i.e. $1.6 \times 10^{-6}\,m^{-2}\,s^{-1}$, and a reasonable match between SSR model predictions and experiment is obtained.

The general shapes of the T_{out} and $m_{1,out}$ curves are the same as those of RD gel. However, since the equilibrium capacity of ID gel is much lower than that of RD gel (as shown in Fig. A1), the ID bed loses its adsorption capacity faster. Thus, $m_{1,out}$ increases very rapidly initially and then there is a smooth

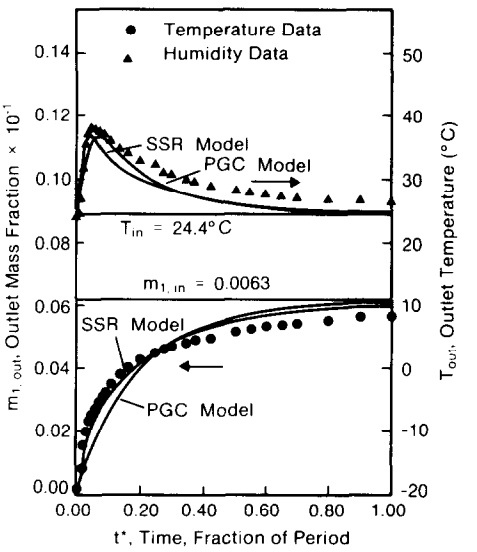

FIG. 15. Comparison of experimental and predicted results for Test 17.

transition to a more gradual increase; T_{out} also increases to its peak value very quickly and subsequently decreases rapidly to the inlet air temperature. The predictions of $m_{1,out}$ of the SSR model are better than those of the PGC model, especially at small times. This behavior is similar to that noted before for adsorption experiments on RD gel. At longer times, $m_{1,out}$ is overpredicted by the SSR model. Usually, the PGC model underpredicts the experimental $m_{1,out}$ initially and overpredicts later. Generally T_{out} is underpredicted by both models, especially after the peak value is reached, with the PGC model doing somewhat better than the SSR model.

4. CONCLUSIONS

(1) Reasonable agreement between prediction and experiment for RD gels is possible with both the SSR model and the PGC model, though in general the SSR model gives the better agreement.

(2) The effective surface diffusion coefficient in the SSR model required to match desorption data for RD gels is about one half of that required to match adsorption data for RD and ID gels.

(3) There is an apparent dynamic hysteresis for adsorption/desorption with RD gel, which could be due a solid-side effective diffusion coefficient which decreases with increasing moisture content; a less likely possibility is a hysteresis in the adsorption isotherm itself.

(4) Further experiments, in which the initial moisture content of the gel is varied over a wide range, are required to clarify the cause of the apparent hysteresis.

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APPENDIX. AUXILIARY DATA

Besides the information already given for K_G and h_c in Table 2, data are required for specific heats $c_{p,e}$, c_{p1}, and c_b, heat of adsorption and equilibrium isotherm relation, bed density, silica gel density and diffusivities. The specific heats are assumed to be independent of temperature which is a reasonable assumption for the range of temperatures encountered for the application of this work, namely, solar desiccant cooling systems.

The specific heats are:

$$c_{p1} = 1884\,\mathrm{J\,kg^{-1}\,K^{-1}}$$

$$c_{p,e} = c_{p1}m_{1,e} + c_{p2}(1 - m_{1,e}) = 1884m_{1,e} + 1005(1 - m_{1,e})\,\mathrm{J\,kg^{-1}\,K^{-1}}$$

$$c_b = c_1 W_{avg} + c_{silica\ gel} = 4178W_{avg} + 921\,\mathrm{J\,kg^{-1}\,K^{-1}}.$$

Equilibrium isotherms were obtained by fitting fourth-degree polynomials to the manufacturer's data [9] for RD (Davison, Grades 01, 03 and 40) and ID (Davison, Grade 59) silica gels

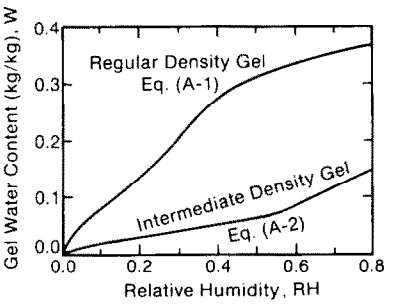

FIG. A1. Comparison of equilibrium isotherms of the two types of silica gel.

$$\mathrm{RH} = 0.0078 - 0.05759W + 24.16554W^2 - 124.78W^3 + 204.226W^4 \quad \text{(A1)}$$

and for ID gel

$$\mathrm{RH} = 1.235W + 267.99W^2 - 3170.7W^3 + 10087.16W^4, \quad W \leqslant 0.07$$
$$\mathrm{RH} = 0.3316 + 3.18W, \quad W > 0.07. \quad \text{(A2)}$$

Figure A1 compares the equilibrium isotherm of RD and ID silica gels. The heat of adsorption is a function of gel water content and is the summation of heat of condensation and heat of wetting. A summary of the literature on heat of adsorption of H_2O on RD silica gel is given in ref. [4]. A recommended correlation that fits the available data for RD gel is

$$\left.\begin{aligned} H_{ads} &= 3500 - 13400W, \quad W \leqslant 0.05 \\ H_{ads} &= 2950 - 1400W, \quad W > 0.05 \end{aligned}\right\}\ \mathrm{kJ/kg\ water} \quad \text{(A3)}$$

For the heat of adsorption on ID gel no satisfactory data was found, thus the Clausius–Clapeyron equation

$$\ln P_{1,i} - \ln P_{1,j} = H_{ads}\Big/\mathrm{R}\left[\frac{1}{(T_i + 273.15)} - \frac{1}{(T_j + 273.15)}\right]$$

was applied to the equilibrium isotherm of ID silica gel. The equilibrium isotherm was replotted on the $\ln P_1$ vs $1/(T + 273.15)$ plane, where an approximate straight line for a constant gel water content was obtained. The slope of these lines gave the average heat of adsorption at each gel water content. The following equation was fitted to the results

$$\left.\begin{aligned} H_{ads} &= -300W + 2095, \quad W < 0.15 \\ H_{ads} &= 2050, \quad W \geqslant 0.15 \end{aligned}\right\}\ \mathrm{kJ/kg\ water} \quad \text{(A4)}$$

The bulk density of RD silica gel bed is $721.1\,\mathrm{kg\,m^{-3}}$, and that of ID silica gel is $400.6\,\mathrm{kg\,m^{-3}}$. The particle density of RD silica gel is $1129\,\mathrm{kg\,m^{-3}}$, and that of ID gel is $620\,\mathrm{kg\,m^{-3}}$.

As discussed in the Appendix of Part I of this work [1] the total diffusivity D depends on the surface diffusion coefficient for microporous RD gel only

$$D = D_{S,eff} \quad \text{(A5)}$$

and depends on both surface and Knudson diffusion coefficients for macroporous ID gel

$$D = D_{S,eff} + D_K \frac{g'(W)}{\rho_p} \quad \text{(A6)}$$

where the effective diffusion coefficients are given by

$$D_{K,eff} = \frac{\varepsilon_p}{\tau_g} 22.86(T + 273.15)^{1/2} a \quad \text{(A7)}$$

$$D_{S,eff} = D_{0,eff} \exp[-0.947 H_{ads}/(T + 273.15)] \quad \text{(A8)}$$

where H_{ads} is in kJ/kg water, T in °C and a is pore size in meters. The particle porosity (ε_p) and gas tortuosity factor (τ_g) for ID gel are 0.716 and 2.0, respectively.

TRANSPORT D'HUMIDITE DANS DES LITS FIXES DE SILICAGEL—II. ETUDE EXPERIMENTALE

Résumé—Des expériences sont conduites pour obtenir la réponse transitoire d'un lit fixe adiabatique et mince de silicagel après un changement d'échelon des conditions d'entrée d'air. Des comparaisons sont faites avec des calculs utilisant un modèle de résistance à coté solide et un modèle à coté pseudo-gaz et le meilleur accord est obtenu avec le premier modèle. Un hystérésis dynamique apparent pour absorption/désorption avec un silicagel microporeux est clairement visible, lequel pourrait être dû à un coefficient de diffusion effectif coté solide qui diminue avec l'accroissement d'humidité, ou à une moindre hystérésis dans l'isotherme d'adsorption elle-même.

FEUCHTETRANSPORT IN SILICAGEL-FESTBETTEN—II: EXPERIMENTELLE UNTERSUCHUNG

Zusammenfassung—Es wurden Experimente durchgeführt, um das Übergangsverhalten eines dünnen adiabaten Silicagel-Festbettes nach einer sprunghaften Veränderung der Lufteintrittsbedingungen zu ermitteln. Es wurden Vergleiche mit Vorhersagen angestellt, die ein Widerstandsmodell für die feste Phase und ein Pseudo-Gas-Modell verwenden, wobei mit dem ersten Modell eine bessere Übereinstimmung erzielt wurde. Es liegt eindeutig eine ausgeprägte dynamische Hysterese für die Adsorption/Desorption im porösen Silicagel vor, welche entweder durch den effektiven Diffusionskoeffizienten auf der Festkörperseite, welcher mit ansteigendem Feuchtegehalt absinkt, oder—weniger ausgeprägt—durch eine Hysterese in der Adsorptionsisotherme selbst hervorgerufen wird.

ПЕРЕНОС ВЛАГИ В ПЛОТНЫХ СЛОЯХ СЕЛИКАГЕЛЯ—II. ЭКСПЕРИМЕНТАЛЬНОЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ

Аннотация—Проведены эксперименты по определению переносных характеристик тонкого адиабатического плотного слоя селикагеля при ступенчатом изменении параметров воздуха на входе. Расчеты, полученные с помощью модели контактно-термического сопротивления и модели, учитывающей влияние псевдоожижающего газа, сравниваются с результатами эксперимента. Лучшее соответствие получено для первой модели. Наблюдаемый динамический гистерезис для адсорбции/десорбции с микропористым селикагелем может являться следствием изменения эффективного коэффициента диффузии твердой фазы, уменьшающегося с ростом влагосодержания или, с меньшей вероятностью, следствием гистерезиса в самой изотерме адсорбции.