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A method for simulating temperature programmed desorption peaks

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Abstract

A procedure for simulating temperature programmed desorption (TPD) peaks is discussed with the aim of determining the shape of a TPD peak and the temperature range, where it is placed, when starting from the knowledge of the peak area (corresponding to the volume of gas adsorbed), of the values of the kinetic parameters (related to the energetic interactions adsorbate-adsorbent), and of some important experimental parameters.

Finally the goodness of the method is checked by simulating a peak at different heating rate and comparing the value of the activation energy, taken as a starting point, with the one that is calculated from the variation of the peak maximum in the temperature scale with the heating rate. © 1997 Elsevier Science B.V.

Keywords: Temperature programmed desorption; Peak simulation; Kinetic analysis

1. Introduction 1. Introduction *rio is usually not known and can provide is usually not known and can provide*

programmed desorption experiments, the starting point tion itself. is always the exploitation of the general equation: As reported elsewhere [1], there is the possibility of

$$
-\frac{\mathrm{d}\theta}{\mathrm{d}t} = k \cdot f(\theta)
$$

which relates the rate of desorption $-(d\theta/dt)$ to some function of the fractional surface coverage, θ , through h the rate constant k , which is governed by the Arrhenius equation: by taking into account that at every instant of the

$$
k = A \cdot e^{-E/RT}
$$

where, E is the activation energy associated with the coverage θ to be uncovered is proportional to the ratio

deducing the function $f(\theta)$ and the kinetic parameters by analysing a single peak: the above equation of the rate of desorption can be rewritten in the form:

$$
h_t = k \cdot f\left(\frac{A-A_t}{A}\right),
$$

desorption process, the peak height *h_t* is proportional to the rate of desorption and the fractional surface process and A is the pre-exponential factor. The between the residual area $(A - A)$ and the total peak area A (Fig. 1).

• Corresponding author. Tel.: 972 7 461 474; Fax: 972 7 472944 It is therefore possible to determine, from a single

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useful information about the mechanism of the des-When performing kinetic evaluation in temperature orption and therefore about the mechanism of adsorp-

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discrepancy is due to some experimental problem (for algebraic manipulations: example a not perfect linear heating) or to the occurrence of multiple peaks (for example a central peak h_n with a shoulder).

Therefore, it is useful to reconstruct a TPD peak by The kinetic equation for a second order desorption a computer calculation starting from the knowledge of (without readsorption): the kinetic parameters and of the function $f(\theta)$: a theoretical curve of this type can therefore be compared with the experimental peak, improving its kinetic analysis.

The kinetic mechanisms for desorption, which can be investigated, can involve surface heterogeneities and diffusional limitations, but in this analysis only first and second order kinetics, with or without readsorption, will be analysed in order to outline a general method, taking into account that diffusional limitations can be avoided during the experimentation, and that surface heterogeneity is important above all at the beginning of desorption, for large surface coverages.

As reported in $[1]$, the kinetic equation for a first Fig. 2. Analysis of the approximate evaluation of heights and areas order desorption (without readsorption): at the beginning of the peak.

$$
-\frac{\mathrm{d}\theta}{\mathrm{d}t}=k\cdot\theta
$$

can be rearranged and written in the form:

$$
h_t = \frac{ZA}{\beta C_s}e^{-E/RT}\left(\frac{A-A_t}{A}\right)
$$

where h_t is the peak height at the time t , and temperature T , Z is the pre-exponential factor, E is the activation energy, A is the total peak area, β is the linear heating rate, C_s is the chart speed of the strip chart recorder, A_t is the area developed by the detector signal at the time t and temperature T .

TEMPERATURE TEMPERATURE TEMPERATURE TEMPERATURE Fig. 1. A simplified TPD peak showing the main peak parameters, calculating h_t only as a function of T, taking Z and E as the starting point. This means to divide the partial area A_t in two parts, that is the area A_{t-1} and the trapezoid area $(h_t + h_{t-1})\cdot \delta/2$, where δ is the interval between two cess, by checking which function can give the best points. By approximating the initial heights and there-
Arrhenius plot. But in some cases, this procedure can fore the initial areas it is possible to calculate every Arrhenius plot. But in some cases, this procedure can fore the initial areas, it is possible to calculate every give unsatisfactory results, because the straight line height. because A_{i-1} and h_{i-1} are always known height, because A_{t-1} and h_{t-1} are always known does not cover the full range of the fractional surface (Fig. 2). Therefore, since $A_t = A_{t-1} + [(h_t + h_{t-1}) \cdot$ coverage and it is not possible to distinguish if this δ /2, we can write, for first order kinetics, after simple

$$
a_t = \frac{(Z/2\beta C_s) \cdot e^{-E/RT} \cdot (2A - 2A_{t-1} - \delta \cdot h_{t-1})}{(1 + (Z\delta/2\beta C_s) \cdot e^{-E/RT})}
$$

$$
-\frac{\mathrm{d}\theta}{\mathrm{d}t}=k\cdot\theta^2
$$

$$
h_t = \frac{ZA}{\beta C_s}e^{-E/RT}\left(\frac{A-A_t}{A}\right)^2
$$

equation, which relates *h*, and *T*: different numerical methods, according to the range of

$$
\left(\frac{Z \cdot \delta^2}{4 \cdot A \cdot \beta \cdot C_s} e^{-E/RT}\right) h_t^2
$$
\nThe equation to be solved (which obvious
\nonly one solution with physical meaning
\n
$$
-\left(1 + 2\delta \frac{(2A - 2A_{t-1} - \delta h_{t-1}) \cdot Z}{4 \cdot A \cdot \beta \cdot C_s} e^{-E/RT}\right) h_t
$$
\n
$$
+\left(\frac{(2A - 2A_{t-1} - \delta h_{t-1})^2 \cdot Z}{4 \cdot A \cdot \beta \cdot C_s} e^{-E/RT}\right) = 0
$$
\n
$$
+ \left(\frac{2A - 2A_{t-1} - \delta h_{t-1}}{4 \cdot A \cdot \beta \cdot C_s} e^{-E/RT}\right) = 0
$$
\n
$$
+ 4AZ'e^{-\Delta H^0/RT}\delta) \cdot h_t
$$

This is an equation of second rank and therefore has $-Z'e^{-\Delta H^0/RT}(I_{t-1}^2 + W_{t-1})$ two solutions, but only one has physical meaning, and it is therefore possible to find the value of *h_t* at every where: $I_{t-1} = 2A_{t-1} + \delta h_{t-1}$ and $W_{t-1} = 4A^2$ predetermined temperature. $8AA_{t-1} - 4A\delta h_{t-1}$.

readsorption: data, the total peak area, the recorder chart speed, the

$$
-\frac{\mathrm{d}\theta}{\mathrm{d}t} = k \cdot \frac{\theta}{1-\theta}
$$

$$
h_t = Z' \cdot e^{\Delta H^0/RT} \left(\frac{A - A_t}{A_t} \right)
$$

nential factor" (It must be taken into account that F is perform any type of analysis. the carrier gas flow rate, C_w is the recorder chart width, Herewith four simulated TPD peaks are shown, and the S is the recorder sensitivity.) The elaboration each referring to one of these four cases. of this equation according to the same criteria allows to obtain a second rank equation in *ht:* 1. First order desorption without readsorption

$$
\delta \cdot h_t^2 + (\delta Z' e^{-\Delta H^0/RT} + (2A_{t-1} + \delta h_{t-1})) \cdot h_t
$$

- Z'e^{-\Delta H^0/RT} (2A - (2A_{t-1} + \delta h_{t-1})) = 0

which can be solved by giving, at every temperature, a $\frac{3!}{4}$. Second order desorption with readsorption solution with a physical meaning. $(Fig. 6)$.

Finally, the fourth case remains to be considered,

$$
-\frac{\mathrm{d}\theta}{\mathrm{d}t}=k\cdot\left(\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}\right)^2
$$

$$
h_t = Z' \cdot e^{\Delta H^0/RT} \left(\frac{A-A_t}{A_t}\right)^2
$$

can be rewritten as: The elaboration of this equation leads to an equation because the values of h_t at the beginning of the peak 2 of third rank, whose solution is somewhat complex, are very small and quite different from those at the and with a similar procedure it is possible to obtain an centre: the computer procedure must therefore use the value of h_t .

> The equation to be solved (which obviously shows only one solution with physical meaning) is:

$$
\delta^{2} \cdot h_{t}^{3} + (2\delta I_{t-1} - Z'e^{-\Delta H^{0}/RT}\delta^{2}) \cdot h_{t}^{2} + (I_{t-1}^{2} - 2I_{t-1}Z'e^{-\Delta H^{0}/RT}\delta + 4AZ'e^{-\Delta H^{0}/RT}\delta) \cdot h_{t} - Z'e^{-\Delta H^{0}/RT}(I_{t-1}^{2} + W_{t-1}) = 0
$$

The kinetic equation for a first order desorption with The computer program therefore, accepts as input interval between two examined points, the heating rate of the catalyst, the starting temperature of the peak and finally the pre-exponential factor (which contains can be rewritten as:

some experimental parameters also) and the activation

some experimental parameters also) and the activation $\frac{1}{2}$ *energy.* It allows to choose among the different kinetic mechanism and give as output data heights, lengths (along x -axis), temperature and areas at every temwhere $Z' = [(FC_wA)/(S\beta C_s)]e^{\Delta s^0/R}$ is the "pre-expo-
perature, either on video or in a text file, in order to

- (Fig. 3).
- 2. Second order desorption without readsorption *-Z'e-~XH°/RT(2A --* (2At-, + *6ht-1))* = 0 (Fig. 4).
- 3. First order desorption with readsorption (Fig. 5).
-

that is the second order desorption with readsorption. It is possible to verify the validity of the simulations In this case the kinetic equation: by means of two procedures. The first lies in determining for each peak the four Arrhenius plots and checking the linearity of the plot corresponding to the proposed kinetic model. As an example it is reported can be rewritten in the form: in Fig. 7 the Arrhenius plots for the first order peak of e 2 Fig. 3.
It is therefore possible to check that the first order

Arrhenius plot shows a good linearity nearly in the

Fig. 3. Simulation of a first order desorption peak. $A_{\text{tot}}=27 \text{ cm}^2$; $C_s=0.5 \text{ cm} \text{ min}^{-1}$; $\delta=0.25 \text{ cm}$; $\beta=8^{\circ}\text{C} \text{ min}^{-1}$; $T_i=895 \text{ K}$; $E_{\text{att}}=377770 \text{ J} \text{ mol}^{-1}$; $Z=1.66\times10^{20}$.

Fig. 4. Simulation of a second order desorption peak. A_{tot} =25.3 cm²; C_8 =0.5 cm min⁻¹; δ =0.5 cm; β =8°C min⁻¹; T_i =487 K; E_{att} 146 300 J mol⁻¹; Z=2.5 × 10¹².

Fig. 5. Simulation of a first order desorption peak with readsorption. $A_{\text{tot}} = 25 \text{ cm}^2$; $C_s = 0.5 \text{ cm}$ min⁻¹; $\delta = 0.25 \text{ cm}$; $\beta = 8^{\circ}\text{C}$ min⁻¹; $T_i = 440 \text{ K}$; H^0 =180 000 J mol⁻¹; ln Z=40.

Fig. 6. Simulation of a second order desorption peak with readsorption. $A_{\text{tot}} = 28.2 \text{ cm}^2$; $C_s = 0.5 \text{ cm} \text{ min}^{-1}$; $\delta = 0.25 \text{ cm}$; $\beta = 8^{\circ} \text{C} \text{ min}^{-1}$; $T_1 = 440.2$ K; $\Delta H^0 = 125000$ J mol⁻¹; ln Z=89.9.

Fig. 7. Arrhenius plots for the first order desorption illustrated in Fig. 3. The slope gives the value of $-E/R$ and the intercept on the ordinate gives the logarithm of pre-exponential factor.

complete range of the temperatures, that is of the surface coverage.

By means of closer examinations it is possible to see that the linearity of the first order plot ranges from $\theta = 1$ to $\theta = 0.015$, and therefore it is possible to conclude that the desorption fits the model of the first order kinetics in the entire range of fractional surface coverage.

The other Arrhenius plots are evidently not linear in all range of the fractional surface coverage or in a large part of that.

The calculations of the activation energy and of the pre-exponential factor give values in complete agreement with the starting values of the simulation, that is E_{att} =375 000 J mol⁻¹ and Z=1.5×10¹⁹.

The second procedure is based on simulating the same peak at three different heating rates, as shown in Figs. 8 and 9 for the simulated first order peak of Fig. 3.

Keeping in mind that it is possible to exploit the method based on the heating rate variation [2] and therefore by plotting the value of $(2 \ln T_M - \ln \beta)$ versus $1/T_{\rm M}$, an activation energy of 380 200 J mol⁻¹

and a pre-exponential factor of 2.8×10^{19} have been found, in good agreement with the starting values used for the simulation.

3. Conclusions

The kinetic analysis of a temperature programmed desorption peak is a procedure which can give in many cases, unreliable results. The widely used analysis of the peak maximum temperature shift with increasing heating rate is sensitive to minor experimental errors, such as slight differences in surface coverage [3]. But, above all, different heating rates can affect up to different extent some physical and chemical factors, such as for example thermal lag and eventual readsorption.

Keeping in mind that it is very important optimising the instrumental apparatus, the analysis of a single peak appears therefore more reliable; in this perspective the reconstruction of a theoretical peak can be important from a practical point of view because it allows to distinguish the different effect of the kinetic

Fig. 8. Simulation at three different heating rates of a first order peak: the peaks are reported as function of the axis length (expressed in cm.), in order to see the invariance of the total area.

Fig. 9. Simulation at three different heating rates of a first order peak: the peaks are reported as function of the temperature, in order to see the shift towards higher temperature of T_M .

order of the pre-exponential factor and of the activa- 320 DIM HZ(280) tion energy on the shape of the peak.

It is possible to compare an experimental peak with a theoretical one and to infer the existence of diffusional effects or to define the presence of multiple peaks, due to desorption of different adsorbed species.

LIST OF THE PROGRAM TPD.BAS

940 GOTO 1210

- 960 PRINT: PRINT: PRINT: PRINT: PRINT:
- 970 PRINT "Now the program is performing the calculations of heights, partial areas and of temperatures of the peak, for a kinetics of 1st ORDER WITH READ-SORPTION; then it is writing the related values in the file TPD.DAT and show them on video"
- 980 PRINT: INPUT" Press a key to continue"; $Q$$
- 990 IF Q\$="y" THEN GOTO 1000
-
- 1010 REM CALCULATION OF A PEAK OF 1ST ORDER WITH READSORPTION
-
- $P(1) = TT$
- 1040 $ALT(1)=0$
-
- 1060 AREA(1)=0
- 1070 PARZ(1)=AREA(1)
- 1080 FOR I=2 TO 280
- 1090 CONTATOR $=$ I
- 1100 TEMP $(I)=TEMP (I-1)+ (DELTA*BE-$
- 1110 $ALF(I)=EXP(Z-(ATT/(8.314*TEM-$
- $1120 \tY(I)=DELTA*ALT(I-1)+2*AREA(I-1)$
- $1130 \qquad W(I)=Y(I)+ALF(I)*DELTA$
- 1140 $J(I)=ALF(I)*(2*A-Y(I))$
- 84150 ALT(I) =(-W(I) +SQR((W(I)^2) + $4*DELTA*J(I))$ /(2*DELTA)
- 1160 PARZ(I)=(ALT(I)+ALT(I--1))*DELTA/2
- 1170 $AREA(I)=AREA(I-1)+PARZ (I)$
- 1170 $X(I)=X(I-1)+DELTA$
- 1190 IF AREA(I)= $>$ A THEN GOTO 1210
- 1200 NEXT I
-
-
- 1230 REM PRINTING ON VIDEO AND WRITING IN THE FILE OF THE CAL-CULATED PARAMETERS
-
-

- 2080 ALT(I)=HV(I)+HT(I)-HA(I)/3: GOTO
- 2090 REM Calculation of the real root, when HD is negative
- 100 $COEFF=HR(1)/(SOR(-HO(I)^43))$
- 2110 IF COEFF>.9 GOTO 2160
- 2120 ALTI = $2*SQR(-HQ(1))*COS$ P)))) (3.141592654#/6-COEFF^7*5/336 *-* COEFF^5/40-COEFF^3/18-COEFF/3)- $-HA(I)/3$
- 2130 $A LT 2 = 2 * SQR (-H Q (I)) * CO S$ $(3.141592654\#/6 - COEFF^*7*5/336 -$ COEFF^5/40-COEFF^3/18-COEFF/3)- $+120*3.141592654#/180$ - HA(I)/3
- 2140 $ALT3=2*SQR(-HQ(1))*COS$ $((3.141592654\#/6-COEFF^2*5/336-$ COEFF^5/40-COEFF^3/18-COEFF/3)- $+240*3.141592654#/180$)-HA(I)/3
- 2150 GOTO 2200
- 2160 IF COEFF>.9999999 THEN COEFF=
- 2170 $ALT1 = 2*SOR(-HO(I))*COS ((SOR(1 –$ $COEFF^2(2)/3$ -HA(I)/3
- 2180 ALT2=2*SQR(-HQ(I))*COS ((SQR(1- $COEFF^2$ (2) $/3$)+ 120*3.141592654#/180)- $-HA(I)/3$
- 2190 ALT3=2*SQR($-HQ(I)$)*COS ((SQR(1 -COEFF^2))/3)+240*3.141592654#/180)- $-HA(I)/3$

References

- 11 R. Spinicci, J. Therm. Anal., 29 (1984) 1061.
- [2] J.L. Falconer and J.A. Schwarz, Catal. Rev. -Sci. Eng., 25 (1983) 141.
- 2070 IF HU(I)<0 THEN HV(I)= $-HV(I)$ [3] A. Brenner and D.A. Hucul, J. Catal., 56 (1979) 134.