

**PARAMETER ESTIMATION IN HETEROGENEOUS CATALYSIS**

by

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I dedicate this thesis to all those who  
have contributed in diverse ways to bring  
me up, especially, my mother, Madam Afua  
Nyame. Her toils, guidance and prayers have  
made me what I am.

ABSTRACT

A mathematical model based on the concentration of the product for the estimation of the parameters characterizing the phenomena which occur during heterogeneous catalysis, has been developed. One could estimate the slopes of sorptional isotherms for the pure reactant from the mathematical model if we know the slopes of the sorptional isotherm for the pure product and if we assume the Langmuir-Hinshelwood mechanism.

The mathematical model was tested with a CSVCR (gradient-less) system using the stimulus-response technique. The reaction was the isomerization of cyclopropane to propylene in the presence of 13x zeolite catalyst.

The estimated integral average values of the first order reaction rate  $\bar{k}$  and the intra-particle diffusivity  $\bar{D}$  were compared with those reported by Kelly (1); and a very good agreement was observed. The mathematical model used in this study to calculate these values was based on the product concentration, while that of Kelly's was based on the concentration of the reactant. The estimated activation energy, 31.1 kcal/g-mole compares favorably with the results of previous investigators (1,59).

RESUME

Un modèle mathématique, basé sur la concentration du produit pour l'estimation des paramètres caractérisant les phénomènes se produisant durant la catalyse hétérogène, a été élaboré. On peut estimer les pentes des isothermes de sorption pour le réactif pur à partir du modèle mathématique si on connaît les pentes des isothermes de sorption pour le produit pur et si l'on prend l'hypothèse du mécanisme de Langmuir-Hinshelwood.

Le modèle a été essayé avec un réacteur sans gradient (CSVCR) utilisant la technique de réponse impulsionnelle. La réaction était l'isomérisation de cyclopropane en propylène en présence de 13X zéolite comme catalyseur.

Les valeurs, estimées par la méthode de la moyenne intégrale, du taux de réaction du premier ordre  $k$  et de la diffusivité intraparticulaire  $\tilde{D}$  ont été comparées avec celles relevées par Kelly (1), et une très bonne concordance a été observée. Le modèle mathématique utilisé dans cette étude pour calculer ces valeurs est basé sur la concentration du produit tandis que celui de Kelly était basé sur la concentration du réactif. L'estimation de l'énergie d'activation, 31.1 kcal/g-mole, est comparée favorablement avec les résultats de précédents travaux (1,59).

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NOMENCLATURE

A	surface area of catalyst layer exposed to the fluid phase, $\text{cm}^2$
c	deviation value of the effective concentration in the catalyst phase, g-mole/ $\text{cm}^3$ catalyst volume
C	total (sum of steady state and deviation values) effective concentration in the catalyst layer, g-mole/ $\text{cm}^3$ catalyst volume
$\bar{C}$	steady state effective concentration in the catalyst layer, g-mole/ $\text{cm}^3$ catalyst volume
$C_T$	constant in the Langmuir sorption isotherm expression (Equation 5-56 and Equation 5-57), equivalent to the total sorbate capacity of the catalyst layer at saturation, g-mole/ $\text{cm}^3$ catalyst volume
D	effective intra-particle diffusivity, $\text{cm}^2/\text{sec}$
$\bar{D}$	integral average value of D, $\text{cm}^2/\text{sec}$
F	total volumetric flow rate into and out of the reactor, $\text{cm}^3/\text{sec}$
h	length parameter in catalyst layer, ratio of the catalyst volume ( $V^*$ ) to outside surface area (A), cm
H(s)	reactor transfer function
k	intrinsic first-order reaction rate constant per unit volume of catalyst layer, $\text{sec}^{-1}$
$\bar{k}$	integral average value of k, $\text{sec}^{-1}$
$K_c$	equilibrium Langmuir adsorption constant for reactant, cyclopropane, defined by Equation 5-56, dimensionless
$K_p$	equilibrium Langmuir adsorption constant for product, propylene, defined by Equation 5-57, dimensionless
M	magnitude of square wave forcing function, g-mole/ $\text{cm}^3$
N	parameter group defined by Equation 3-41, sec
$P_T$	total internal reactor or CSV system pressure, mm Hg
Q	parameter group defined by Equation 3-40, $\text{sec}^{-1}$

RF	parameter group defined by Equation 5-47, $\text{cm}^3/\text{sec}$
RR	parameter group defined by Equation 3-33
RP	parameter group defined by Equation 3-42
S	Laplace transform variable
t	independent/time variable, sec
V <sup>+</sup>	volume of the fluid phase, $\text{cm}^3$
W	duration of square wave forcing pulse, sec
x	deviation value of the input (forcing) concentration in the fluid phase, $\text{g-moles}/\text{cm}^3$
X	total (sum of steady state and deviation values) input concentration in the fluid phase, $\text{g-mole}/\text{cm}^3$
y	deviation value of the output concentration in the fluid phase, $\text{g-mole}/\text{cm}^3$
Y	total (sum of steady state and deviation values) output concentration in the fluid phase, $\text{g-mole}/\text{cm}^3$
z	independent dimensionless distance variable in the catalyst layer

#### GREEK LETTERS

$\alpha$	$\Delta\psi/F$ , $\text{sec}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$
$\beta$	$\sqrt{k/D}$ , $\text{cm}^{-1}$
$\gamma$	$\psi\sqrt{Dk}$ , $\text{cm sec}^{-1}$
$\phi$	$h\sqrt{k/D}$ , Thiele modulus
$\tau$	residence time, sec
$\psi$	slope of sorption isotherm about the steady state value fluid phase concentration
$\mu_n$	$n^{\text{th}}$ unnormalized moment about the origin of the reactor fluid phase ( $y(t)$ ) response, $\text{g-mole sec}^n/\text{cm}^3$
$\eta$	constant, defined by Equation 5-64

SUPERSCRIPTS

- indicates steady state values
- ^ indicates normalized moment
- +
- \* indicates catalyst layer
- ~ indicates Laplace transformed variable

SUBSCRIPTS

- 1 indicates thin pellet
- 2 indicates thick pellet
- $\Delta$  indicates reactant, cyclopropane
- p indicates product, propylene
- N indicates inert, nitrogen

## 1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Heterogeneous catalytic reactors are widely used in the chemical industries. The design of this type of reactor requires the knowledge of the parameters which account for mass transfer, sorption, and reaction phenomena. Thus it is essential to develop a simple, but efficient method for estimating these parameters.

Kelly (1) developed a method that depended on the measurement and interpretation of reactant concentration. While the method produced reasonable reaction rate coefficients, the variability of the data was undesirably large. The purposes of this project were to test Kelly's model by an alternate method based on product concentration and to reduce the variability of the data.

The equipment used was the same as the one used by Kelly (1). There was only one major difference in the experimental procedure. Kelly (1) used a mixture of the reactant and product in the feed gas to the reactor. In this study a mixture of the reactant and inert gas was used as the feed gas to the reactor.

The effluent gas from the reactor consisted of the reactant, product and inert gas. The infra-red spectrophotometer was used to monitor its composition. Being interested in only the product concentration, a suitable wavelength ( $6.1 \mu$ ) was chosen at which the product was strongly absorbing while the reactant was non-absorbing. The inert gas (i.e. nitrogen) posed no problem in the search for this wavelength. The reason is that nitrogen is completely transparent throughout the infra-red spectrum.

## 2. LITERATURE SURVEY

The earliest investigations in the field of heterogeneous catalysis used microcatalytic (2,3,4) and gas chromatographic (5,6,7) techniques. These two techniques were combined by Bassett and Habgood (2) to study the isomerization of cyclopropane to propylene on a molecular sieve catalyst. A detailed review of these early investigations and some recent studies has been presented by Kelly (1).

The models which had been developed by most authors (9-18) did not include reaction phenomena. However, they all accounted for sorption and diffusion phenomena. In some of the models (9,10,12) axial dispersion and external mass transfer were considered.

For a realistic approach to heterogeneous catalysis in a fixed bed or gas chromatographic reactor, we must account for five phenomena, namely: particle-to-fluid mass transfer, axial dispersion, intra-particle diffusion, sorption and reaction. However, complex equations arise when all the five phenomena are considered. Hence most investigators develop methods where two or three of the phenomena are significant while the rest are neglected. A list of the authors and the various phenomena that they considered in their methods is presented in Table 2-1.

Recently, Kawazoe et.al. (19) used the chromatographic method to study the adsorption of nitrogen on molecular sieve carbon. The adsorption isotherms were non-linear. Thus a small perturbation pulse of nitrogen was introduced to the steady flow of a given nitrogen concentration. The response was analysed using the theory of non-equilibrium

TABLE 2-1

List of Investigators and the Phenomena they Considered

Author (Ref.)	Axial Dispersion	Particle- to-Fluid Mass Transfer	Intra- Particle Diffusion	Sorption	Reaction
Thomas (49)			*		
Roser (31)			*		
Dogu and Smith (25)			*		
Edeskuty and Amundson			*		
Roser (32)			*	*	
Masamuna and Smith (11)			*	*	
Smith and co-workers (14-18)			*	*	
Kawazoe, Suzuki and Chihara (19)			*	*	
Kocirik (36)			*	*	*
Roginskii and Rozental (37)			*	*	*
Donisova and Rozental (38)			*	*	*
Kubin (9)	*	*	*	*	
Kucera (10)	*	*	*	*	
Suzuki and Smith (16)	*	*	*	*	
Padberg and Smith (13)	*	*	*	*	
Kelly (1)			*	*	*

chromatography. The apparent adsorption equilibrium constants were determined from the retention times of the peaks for different steady flow concentrations. The peak width was used to estimate the intraparticle diffusivity. The strong dependence of the diffusivity on the amount adsorbed was explained in terms of the chemical potential gradient. The chemical potential gradient acted as a driving force of the diffusion.

A pulse reactor with a heat-flow micro-calorimeter had been developed quite recently (20,21). This technique allows both kinetic-related and thermal information to be obtained.

In addition to the micro-reactor and gas chromatography, the single pellet reactor has also emerged. Its theory and experimental procedure at steady state have been developed by Balder and Peterson (22). Gibilaro et al. (23) have also proposed the transient procedure for investigating the pore structure.

Suzuki and Smith (24) used the single pellet with a well mixed gas phase to investigate the adsorption phenomenon. With their experimental model, all other types of mass transfer were eliminated, except intra-particle mass transfer. They estimated the adsorption equilibria data from first moments. Adsorbable tracer was used. According to the authors, the measurement from pellets of different thickness could be used to estimate both the effective diffusivity and adsorption equilibrium constant.

Dogu and Smith (25) very recently developed a simple and rapid technique for the determination of effective diffusivity of catalysts

using pulse-response technique. They used the Wicke-Kallenbach type of diffusion cell. Their results could be very reliable if the retention time in the dead volumes could be made to be negligible compared to the diffusion time in the pellet. Another problem with the Wicke-Kallenbach diffusion cell is the bypassing along the sides of the pellet which becomes significant at high temperatures.

Kelly-(1) recently developed a method which allows the simultaneous estimation of the parameters of diffusion, sorption and reaction phenomena. The method was based on the dynamic model and a continuous stirred-volume reactor (CSVCR) or gradientless reactor. The use of this type of reactor for heterogeneous catalysis investigation was first suggested by Bennett (26). In the gradientless type of reactor, the bulk fluid concentration is uniform and constant at steady flow of a given inlet gas concentration. The uniformity is due to the efficient mixing of the fluid phase. This makes the interfacial mass transfer resistance negligible compared to the diffusion and reaction rate resistance.

### 3. THEORY

#### 3.1 Introduction

The theory for a continuous, stirred-volume, catalytic reactor (CSVCR) has been developed by a number of authors (24,26-29). Kelly and Fuller (30) developed the lumped variable equilibrium model for a CSVCR reactor. They assumed a first-order reaction. Kelly (1) later developed the lumped variable non-equilibrium model and the distributed variable model.

In the lumped variable models, the concentration of the reactant (or product) in the catalyst phase was characterized by an effective concentration. The effective concentration represented both the sorbed and non-sorbed concentrations in the pores. This definition coupled with the fact that the measurable gas phase concentration is uniform permits the functional form of the adsorption isotherm to be obtained. This then allows the experimentation to be carried out at all inlet reactant concentrations.

In the distributed variable model, the reactant is distributed between gas and sorbed phases inside the pores of the catalyst pellet. If a Taylor series expansion is used to linearize the adsorption term in this model, the adsorption coefficient will be a function of displacement from the boundary between the porous catalyst and the bulk fluid phase. The reason for this is that the pore gas phase concentration varies with position in the catalyst layer. For the limiting case where the concentration difference in the gas phase in the pores is negligible

and external mass transport resistance is also negligible, the Taylor series approach may be used. However, this would preclude the measurement of effective intra-pellet diffusivities.

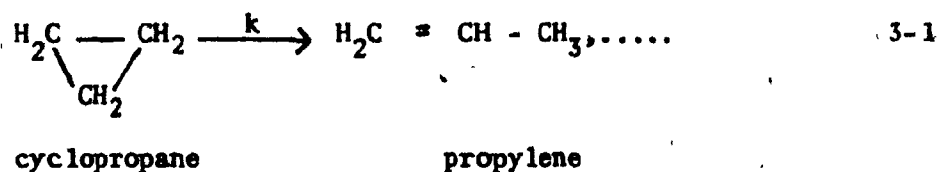
The disadvantage of the distributed variable model is that each component in the catalyst layer must be described by two differential equations. The lumped variable models require only a single equation. Hence, in the present investigation, where two components (product and reactant) must be considered, the lumped variable model proved to be the most appropriate to use. The lumped-variable non-equilibrium model is a more complete description of the phenomena than the equilibrium model when considering a reaction system. However, the expressions for the moments of the non-equilibrium model are too complex for practical application. Hence, only the lumped-variable equilibrium model was used.

### 3.2 Lumped Variable Equilibrium Model

#### 3.2.1 Basic equations

##### i. Catalyst Layer

The irreversible first-order reaction to be considered is given by



where  $k$  is the reaction rate constant. The reaction is athermal (1) and since moles are conserved, there should be no temperature and pressure gradients.

The continuity equations for the reactant product and inert gas in the catalyst phase in terms of the deviation variables are given by

$$\frac{\partial c_{\Delta}(z,t)}{\partial t} = \frac{D}{h^2} \frac{\partial^2 c_{\Delta}(z,t)}{\partial z^2} - kc_{\Delta}(z,t) \quad 3-2$$

$$\frac{\partial c_P(z,t)}{\partial t} = \frac{D}{h^2} \frac{\partial^2 c_P(z,t)}{\partial z^2} + kc_{\Delta}(z,t) \quad 3-3$$

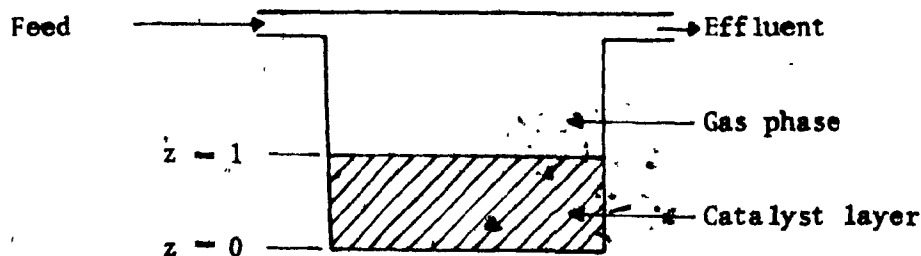
$$\frac{\partial c_N(z,t)}{\partial t} = \frac{D}{h^2} \frac{\partial^2 c_P(z,t)}{\partial z^2} \quad 3-4$$

The deviation variables are the small change in concentration about the steady state values:

$$\text{i.e. } c(t) = C(t) - \bar{C} \quad 3-4A$$

where  $c$  is deviation value,  
 $C$  is total value,  
 $\bar{C}$  is steady state value, and  
 $t$  is time.

The effective intra-particle diffusivity,  $D$ , is defined as the ratio of the diffusion flux density to the effective concentration gradient, where the flux density is based on the total cross-sectional area of the catalyst layer. The diffusivity is assumed to be independent of concentration. It is also assumed to be the same for the reactant, product and inert gas. For uniform catalyst texture achieved by wet pressing of the pellet,  $D$  is independent of  $z$ , the independent dimensionless distance variable in the catalyst layer and  $t$ , time.



SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM OF CSVCR

The dependent variable we want to solve for is the concentration of the product,  $c_p$ , contained in Equation 3-3. However, this equation cannot be solved alone. It contains one more dependent variable, namely  $c_A$ , which is the concentration of the reactant in the reaction term. However the reaction term is eliminated when Equations 3-2 and 3-3 are added. And by defining a new variable,

$$c = c_A + c_p \quad 3-5$$

we obtain

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t}(z,t) = \frac{D}{h^2} \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial z^2}(z,t) \quad 3-6$$

The boundary conditions for Equations 3-2 and 3-3 and hence Equation 3-6 are given by:

$$\text{B.C. 1} \quad c_A(1,t) = \psi_A y_A(t) \quad 3-7a$$

$$c_p(1,t) = \psi_p y_p(t) \quad 3-7b$$

$$c(1,t) = \psi_A y_A(t) + \psi_p y_p(t) \quad 3-7c$$

These boundary conditions assume that there is linear relationship between a small change in the gas phase concentration,  $y(t)$ , about the

steady state value  $\bar{Y}$  and the corresponding change in the amount adsorbed on the pellet surface,  $c(1,t)$ .  $\psi_{\Delta}$  and  $\psi_p$  are the slopes of the sorption isotherms for the reactant and product respectively. A more elaborate version of these boundary conditions will be discussed in Section 5.2.

$$\text{B.C. 2} \quad \frac{\partial c_{\Delta}}{\partial t}(0,t) = 0 \quad 3-8a$$

$$\frac{\partial c_p}{\partial t}(0,t) = 0 \quad 3-8b$$

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t}(0,t) = 0 \quad 3-8c$$

The second group of boundary conditions represents the fact that there is no mass transfer through the sealed end of the catalyst layer.

The initial conditions are given by

$$\text{I.C.} \quad c_{\Delta}(z,0) = 0 \quad 3-9a$$

$$c_p(z,0) = 0 \quad 3-9b$$

$$c(z,0) = 0 \quad 3-9c$$

These conditions indicate that at time,  $t = 0$ , the system is at steady state and there is no transient change in concentration.

## ii. Gas Phase

Conservation of mass equations describing the reactant, the reactant product and their sum in the gas phase are given by:

$$v \frac{dy_{\Delta}}{dt} = F(x_{\Delta} - y_{\Delta}) - \frac{AD}{h} \left( \frac{\partial c_{\Delta}}{\partial z} \right)_{z=1} \quad 3-10a$$

$$V^+ \frac{dy_p}{dt} = F(x_p - y_p) - \frac{AD}{h} \left( \frac{\partial c}{\partial z} \right)_{z=1} \quad 3-10b$$

$$V^+ \frac{dy}{dt} = F(x - y) - \frac{AD}{h} \left( \frac{\partial c}{\partial z} \right)_{z=1} \quad 3-10c$$

where  $x = x_\Delta + x_p \quad 3-11a$

$$y = y_\Delta + y_p \quad 3-11b$$

and  $V^+$  is the volume of the gas phase.

The initial conditions are given by:

$$y_\Delta(0) = 0 \quad 3-12a$$

$$y_p(0) = 0 \quad 3-12b$$

$$y(0) = 0 \quad 3-12c$$

### 3.2.2 Solution in Laplace domain

#### i. Catalyst Layer

Transforming Equations 3-6, 3-7c, 3-8c and 3-9c to the Laplace domain and solving for  $C(s)$  gives

$$\tilde{C}(s) = \frac{\psi_\Delta \tilde{Y}_\Delta(s) + \psi_p \tilde{Y}_p(s)}{\cosh(h\sqrt{s/D})} \cosh(hz\sqrt{s/D}) \quad 3-13$$

The solution for  $\tilde{C}_\Delta(s)$  in the Laplace domain is given by

$$\tilde{C}_\Delta(s) = \psi_\Delta \tilde{Y}_\Delta(s) \frac{\cosh(hz\sqrt{(k+s)/D})}{\cosh(h\sqrt{(k+s)/D})} \quad 3-14$$

Hence

$$\tilde{C}_p(s) = \frac{\psi_\Delta \tilde{Y}_\Delta(s) + \psi_p \tilde{Y}_p(s)}{\cosh(h\sqrt{s/D})} \cosh(hz\sqrt{s/D}) - \psi_\Delta \tilde{Y}_\Delta(s) \frac{\cosh(hz\sqrt{(k+s)/D})}{\cosh(h\sqrt{(k+s)/D})}$$

.....3-15

ii. Gas Phase

The Laplace transform of Equation 3-10b is given by

$$V^+ \tilde{Y}_p(s) = F(\tilde{X}_p(s) - \tilde{Y}_p(s)) - \frac{AD}{h} \left( \frac{\partial \tilde{X}_p}{\partial z} \right)_{z=1} \quad 3-16$$

From Equation 3-15 we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \frac{\partial \tilde{X}_p}{\partial z} \right)_{z=1} &= [\psi_\Delta \tilde{Y}_\Delta(s) + \psi_p \tilde{Y}_p(s)] (h\sqrt{s/D}) \tanh(h\sqrt{s/D}) - \\ &\quad - \psi_\Delta \tilde{Y}_\Delta(s) h\sqrt{(k+s)/D} \tanh(h\sqrt{(k+s)/D}) \quad \dots 3-17 \end{aligned}$$

Substituting Equation 3-17 in Equation 3-16 and then dividing through by  $F$  gives

$$\begin{aligned} \tau^+ s \tilde{Y}_p(s) &= \tilde{X}_p(s) - \tilde{Y}_p(s) - \frac{AD}{F} \{ [\psi_\Delta \tilde{Y}_\Delta(s) \\ &\quad + \psi_p \tilde{Y}_p(s)] \sqrt{s/D} \tanh(h\sqrt{s/D}) \\ &\quad - \psi_\Delta \tilde{Y}_\Delta(s) \sqrt{(k+s)/D} \tanh(h\sqrt{(k+s)/D}) \} \quad 3-18 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\tau^+ = V^+/F$ .

By solving the Laplace transform of Equations 3-2, 3-10a and their appropriate boundary and initial conditions we obtain

$$\tilde{Y}_\Delta(s) = \frac{\tilde{X}_\Delta(s)}{1 + \tau^+ s + \frac{A}{F} \psi_\Delta \sqrt{D(k+s)} \tanh(h\sqrt{k+s}/D)} \quad 3-19$$

The following transfer function is obtained after substituting Equation 3-19 in Equation 3-18, and assuming no product in the input gas (i.e.  $\tilde{X}_p(s) = 0$ ):

$$\begin{aligned}
H_{p\Delta}(s) &= \frac{\tilde{Y}_p(s)}{\tilde{X}_\Delta(s)} \\
&= \frac{\psi_\Delta}{A_F} \left[ \sqrt{D(k+s)} \tanh(h\sqrt{(k+s)/D}) - \sqrt{sD} \tanh(h\sqrt{s/D}) \right] / \left\{ 1 \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \tau^*s + \frac{\psi_\Delta}{A_F} \sqrt{D(k+s)} \tanh(h\sqrt{(k+s)/D}) \right\} \left[ 1 + \tau^*s \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \frac{\psi_p}{A_F} \sqrt{sD} \tanh(h\sqrt{s/D}) \right] \} \quad \dots\dots 3-20
\end{aligned}$$

### 3.2.3 Moments of response curves to square wave input

The experiments will consist of measuring the responses in the product concentration to square-wave stimuli in the reactant concentration as described in Section 4.2.2B. Consequently, we need to express the moments of the response curves in terms of the unknown parameters. The relationship between the moments of the response curves and the Laplace transform of the product concentration of the reactor output  $Y_p(s)$  is given by

$$\mu_n = (-1)^n \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{d^n Y_p(s)}{ds^n} \quad 3-21$$

$$\text{where } \mu_n = \int_0^\infty y(t) t^n dt \quad 3-22$$

For a square-wave input of the reactant concentration,

$$\tilde{X}_\Delta(s) = M(1 - e^{-Ws})/s \quad 3-23$$

where  $M$  is the magnitude of square-wave, forcing function and  $W$  is the duration.

The zero<sup>th</sup> moment is given by

$$\mu_0 = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \tilde{Y}_p(s) = \frac{MW\alpha_\Delta \sqrt{Dk} \tanh \phi}{1 + \alpha_\Delta \sqrt{Dk} \tanh \phi} \quad 3-24$$

where  $\phi$ , the Thiele modulus  $= h\sqrt{k/D}$  and  $\alpha_\Delta = \frac{A\psi_\Delta}{F}$ .

From Equation 3-24, we have

$$\alpha_{\Delta} \sqrt{Dk} \tanh \phi = \mu_0 / (MW - \mu_0) \quad 3-25$$

$$\text{and } 1 + \alpha_{\Delta} \sqrt{Dk} \tanh \phi = MW / (MW - \mu_0) \quad 3-26$$

The first unnormalized moment  $\mu_1$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_1 &= - \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{d\tilde{Y}}{ds} P(s) \quad 3-27 \\ &= MW \alpha_{\Delta} \left\{ \sqrt{Dk} \tanh \phi \left[ \tau^+ + \frac{\alpha_{\Delta}}{2} (\sqrt{D/k} \tanh \phi + h \text{Sech}^2 \phi) \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + (\tau^+ + \alpha_p h) (1 + \alpha_{\Delta} \sqrt{Dk} \tanh \phi) \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. - (1 + \alpha_{\Delta} \sqrt{Dk} \tanh \phi) \left[ 1/2 (\sqrt{D/k} \tanh \phi + h \text{Sech}^2 \phi - 2h) \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. - \frac{W}{2} \sqrt{Dk} \tanh \phi \right] \right\} / (1 + \alpha_{\Delta} \sqrt{Dk} \tanh \phi)^2 \quad \dots\dots 3-28 \end{aligned}$$

The first normalized moment,  $\hat{\mu}_1$ , is

$$\hat{\mu}_1 = \mu_1 / \mu_0$$

so,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mu}_1 &= \left\{ \tau^+ + \frac{\alpha_{\Delta}}{2} (\sqrt{D/k} \tanh \phi + h \text{Sech}^2 \phi) + (1 + \alpha_{\Delta} \tanh \phi) \times \right. \\ &\quad \left. (\tau^+ + \alpha_p h) - \frac{1 + \alpha_{\Delta} \sqrt{Dk} \tanh \phi}{2 \sqrt{Dk} \tanh \phi} \times \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left[ \sqrt{D/k} \tanh \phi + h \text{Sech}^2 \phi - 2h - W \sqrt{Dk} \tanh \phi \right] \right\} / (1 + \alpha_{\Delta} \sqrt{Dk} \tanh \phi) \quad \dots\dots 3-29 \end{aligned}$$

Then, from Equations 3-25 and 3-26,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mu}_1 &= \tau^+ (2 - \mu_0 / MW) + \frac{1}{2k} (\mu_0 / MW - 1) + \alpha_p h + W/2 \\ &\quad + \frac{h \alpha_{\Delta}}{2} (MW / \mu_0 - \mu_0 / MW) + (\mu_0 / MW) (h / \alpha_{\Delta} Dk) \quad \dots\dots 3-30 \end{aligned}$$

### 3.2.4 Solution of the moment equations to determine the parameters

There are four parameters to be estimated; namely: 1)  $k$ , the first-order reaction rate constant, 2)  $D$ , the intragranular diffusivity, 3)  $\psi_{\Delta}$ , the adsorption equilibrium constant for the reactant, and 4)  $\psi_p$ , the adsorption equilibrium constant for the product.  $\psi_{\Delta}$  and  $\psi_p$  are contained in the terms  $\alpha_{\Delta}$  and  $\alpha_p$ , respectively.

There are only two equations involving the zero<sup>th</sup> and the first normalized moments (i.e. Equations 3-24 and 3-30). Hence to solve for the four parameters, the measurements from two pellet thicknesses are required.

From Equation 3-25 and for two pellets of different thicknesses  $h_1$  and  $h_2$ , we have

$$\frac{AY}{F_1} \tanh(h_1\beta) = RR_1(1-RR_1) \quad 3-31$$

$$\frac{AY}{F_2} \tanh(h_2\beta) = RR_2(1-RR_2) \quad 3-32$$

$$RR = \mu_0/MW \quad 3-33$$

$$\beta = \sqrt{k/D} \quad 3-34$$

$$\gamma = \psi_{\Delta} \sqrt{Dk} \quad 3-35$$

Taking the ratio of Equations 3-31 and 3-32, we have

$$\frac{\tanh(h_1\beta)}{\tanh(h_2\beta)} = \frac{RR_1 F_1 (1-RR_1)}{RR_2 F_2 (1-RR_2)} \quad 3-36$$

Each term in Equation 3-36 can be measured independently, except  $\beta$ .  $\beta$  can be obtained by solving the above non-linear equation. Then, by substituting  $\beta$  in either Equation 3-31 or 3-32, we can solve for  $\gamma$ .

From Equations 3-34 and 3-35,

$$\psi_{\Delta} = \frac{\beta\gamma}{k} \quad 3-37$$

$$\text{and } \psi_{\Delta}^D = \frac{\gamma}{\beta} \quad 3-38$$

Substituting Equations 3-33, 3-37 and 3-38 in Equation 3-30 and dividing through by  $\tau^*(-Ah/F)$  and rearranging we arrive at,

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_p + \frac{1}{2k}[(RR-1)/\tau^* + \beta\gamma(1/RR-RR) - W/2] \\ = 1/\tau^*[\hat{\mu}_1 - \tau^*(2-RR) - W/2] \end{aligned} \quad \dots\dots 3-39$$

By defining

$$Q = 1/2[(RR-1)/\tau^* + \beta\gamma(1/RR-RR)] \quad 3-40$$

$$N = \left(\frac{F^2\gamma}{2A^2\beta}\right)RR \quad 3-41$$

$$\text{and } RP = 1/\tau^*[\hat{\mu}_1 - \tau^*(2-RR) - W/2] \quad 3-42$$

we obtain

$$\psi_p + \frac{Q}{k} + Nk = RP \quad 3-43$$

Then, for two pellets of different thicknesses, we have

$$\psi_p + \frac{Q_1}{k} + N_1k = RP_1 \quad 3-44$$

$$\psi_p + \frac{Q_2}{k} + N_2 k = RP_2 \quad 3-45$$

Subtracting Equation 3-45 from 3-44 and multiplying through by  $k$ , we obtain

$$(N_1 - N_2)k^2 - (RP_1 - RP_2)k + (Q_1 - Q_2) = 0 \quad 3-46$$

Equation 3-46 is a quadratic equation in terms of  $k$  which can easily be solved. We can then calculate  $\psi_p$ ,  $\psi_\Delta$  and  $D$  from Equations 3-44 (or 3-45), 3-37 and 3-38.

In solving either Equations 3-36 or 3-46, the data for the two pellets at the same steady state concentrations of the reactor output must be used.

#### 4. APPARATUS AND EXPERIMENT

##### 4.1 Apparatus

##### 4.1.1 Introduction

The apparatus is schematically shown in Figure 4.1. It is the same apparatus used by Kelly (1). The feed streams A and B to the reactor were connected to two gas cylinders through a system of valves and connecting tubes. One of the gas cylinders contained nitrogen while the second contained cyclopropane when the reaction was being carried out. During calibration of the infrared spectrophotometer, either the cyclopropane cylinder or the nitrogen cylinder could be replaced with propylene cylinder.

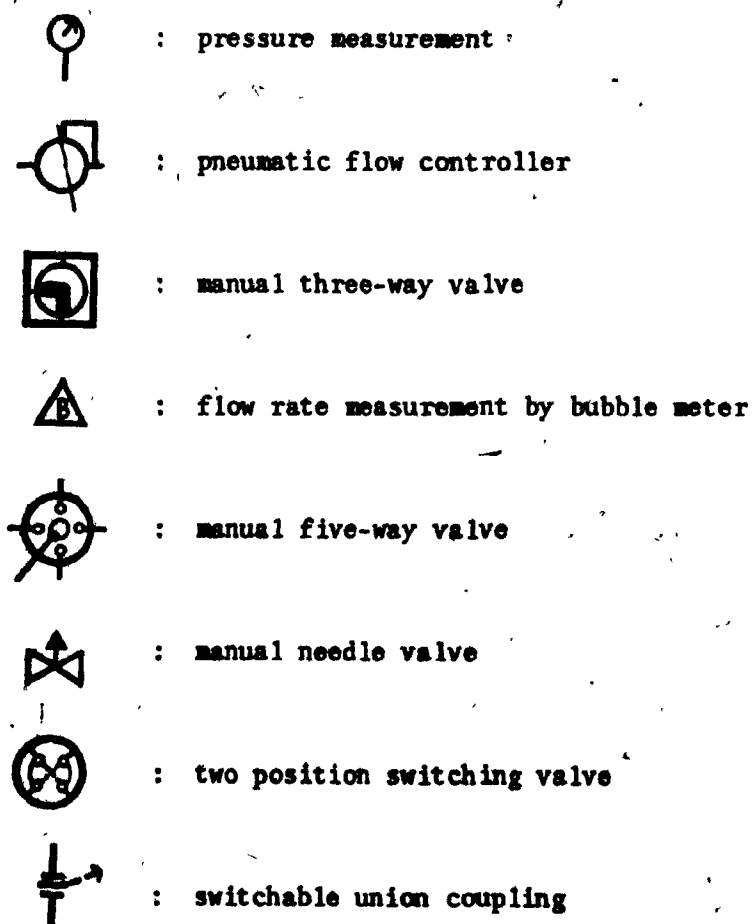
The flow rates of gases from the cylinders were set and measured by the pneumatic flow controllers and the soap bubble meters respectively. Using the manual five-way valve, the mixture of gases from the two cylinders could be fed to the reactor or by-passed to the infra-red spectrophotometer unit for the purpose of calibration. The output from the reactor could also go to the infra-red spectrophotometer for analysis.

The two major units of the apparatus are 1) the reactor, and 2) the concentration signal generator.

##### 4.1.2 Reactor

A pictorial view of the reactor is given in Figure 4-2. The main parts are:

FIGURE 4-1 Overall schematic diagram of the feed system



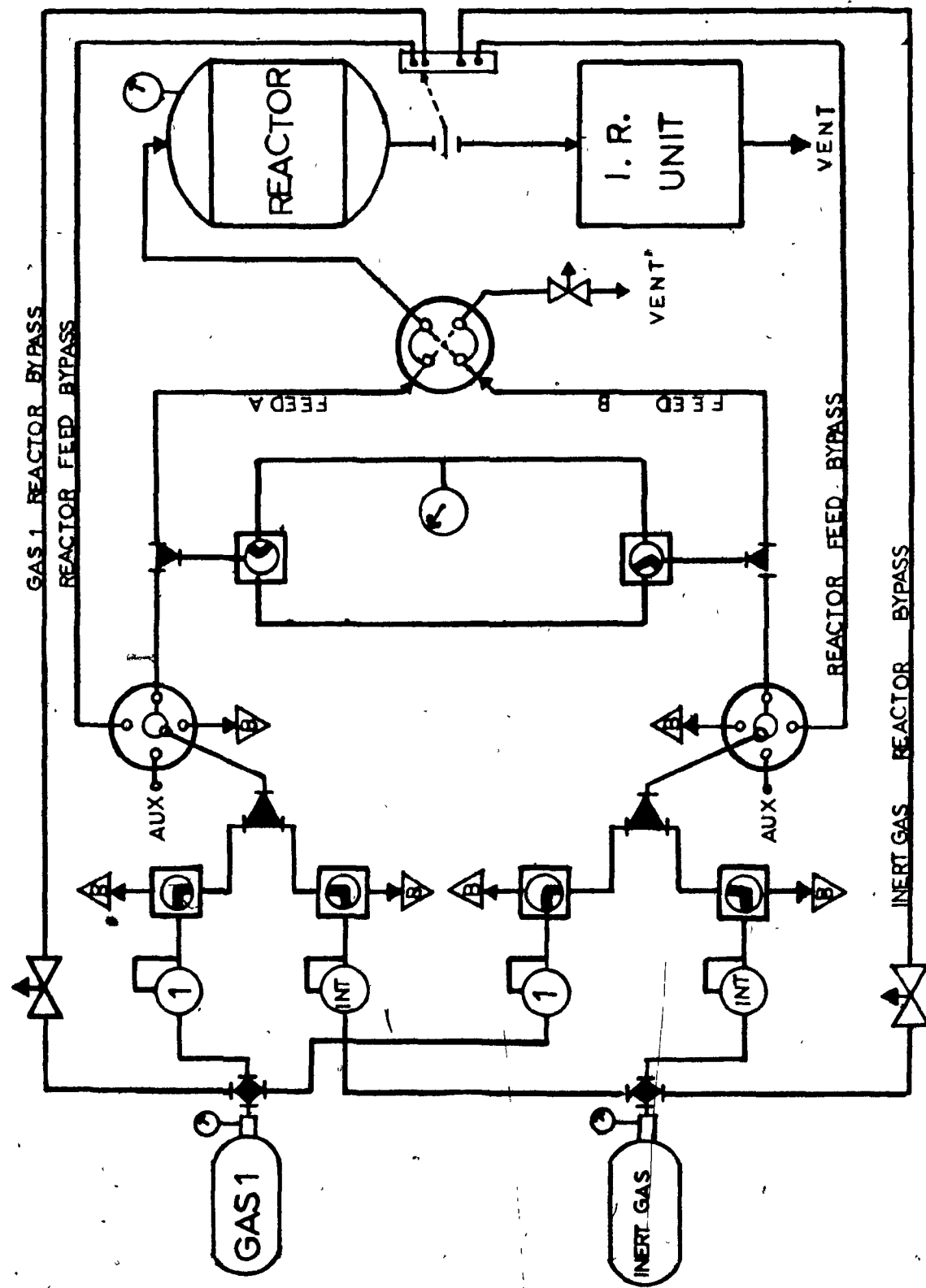
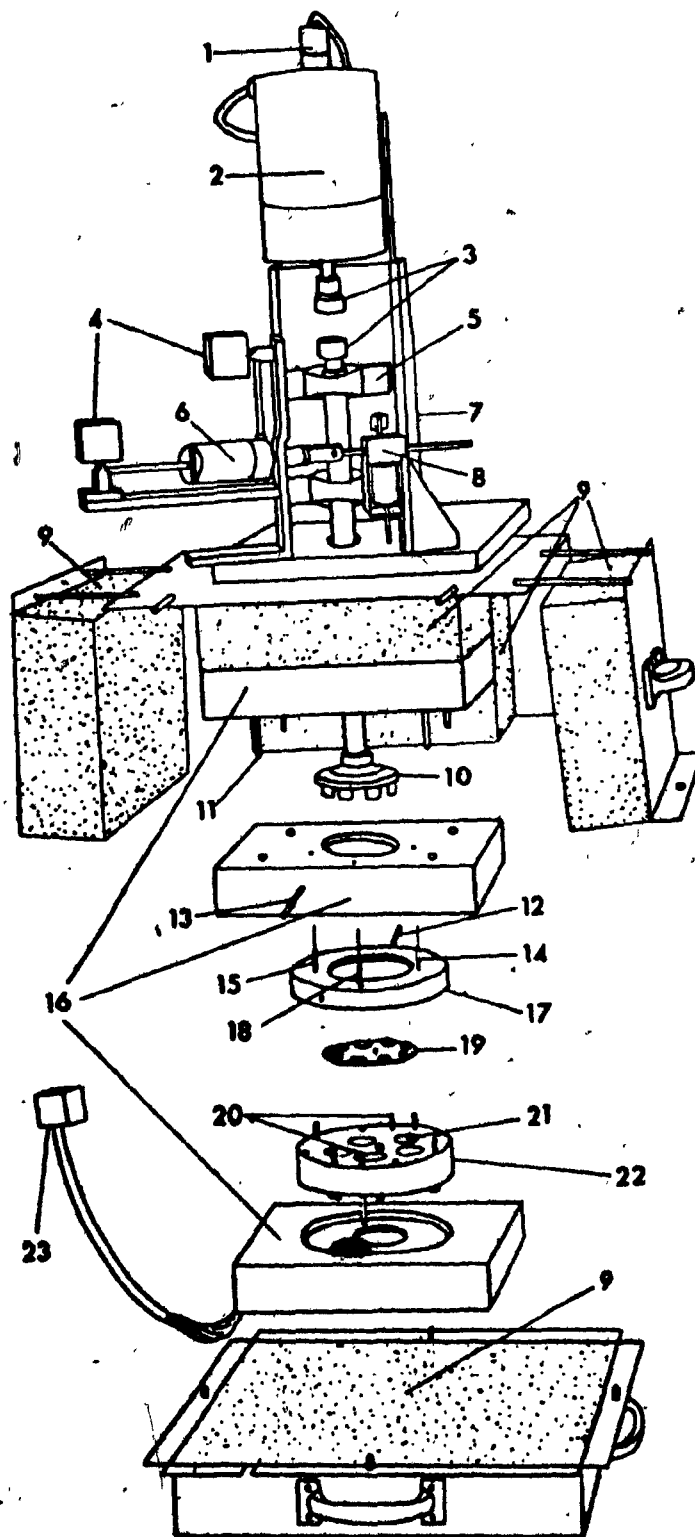


FIGURE 4-2 Exploded pictorial view of the CSVCR assembly

1. tacho generator
2. variable speed D.C. motor
3. motor-drive shaft coupling
4. air cylinder solenoid valves
5. drive shaft pillow block bearing
6. double acting air cylinder
7. motor-drive shaft support bracket
8. microvolume switching valve
9. thermostat insulation sections
10. external magnetic impeller
11. thermostat cartridge heater
12. outlet port
13. light pipe feedthrough
14. inlet port
15. pressure port
16. aluminum thermostat blocks
17. reactor top section
18. movable thermocouple entry
19. internal magnetic impeller
20. removable alignment pins
21. large diameter catalyst pellets
22. reactor bottom section
23. electrical disconnect



- a) the reactor vessel, 17 and 22
- b) the magnetic stirrer, 19 and 10; and
- c) the thermostat, 16.

a) The reactor vessel was a disk-like cylindrical vessel of outer and inner diameters 21.91 and 15.88 cm respectively. The height was 6.35 cm. It was constructed in two parts from type 316 stainless steel. The top part, 17, was rigidly held to an aluminum thermostat block. The top part contained the magnetic stirrer, 19, the outlet and inlets, 12 and 14, pressure port, 15, and the thermocouple entries, for example, 18.

The bottom part of the reactor vessel, 22, was removable. It contained the five die holes, 21, into which the catalyst were pressed. Each die hole was 5.08 cm in diameter and 3.81 cm deep.

b) The magnetic stirrer consisted of a thin disk-like internal follower impeller, 19. It was magnetically coupled through the top part of the reactor vessel to a larger external drive impeller, 10. The internal impeller had eight Samarium Cobalt permanent magnets mounted on it. The same number of permanent magnets fitted to the external impeller were Alnico magnetic material.

At the two ends of the internal impeller shaft were two hardened, stainless-steel balls which rotated in conical bearings made from graphite-impregnated polyimide resin. The bearing cones were recessed into the two parts of the reactor vessel. The bottom cone was attached to the top of a metal bellows in a guide hole so that the cone was free to move vertically, but not to rotate. The bellows was inflated with

air pressure to force the bearing cone against the lower ball of the impeller shaft. The external impeller was driven by 0.5 horsepower, variable-speed, D.C. motor. Its axial alignment was achieved through two pillow block bearings and a large diameter shaft.

An illuminated lens was installed in the top section of the reactor vessel. A co-linear light pipe on the opposite side of the vessel permitted an observer to see the rotation of the internal impeller.

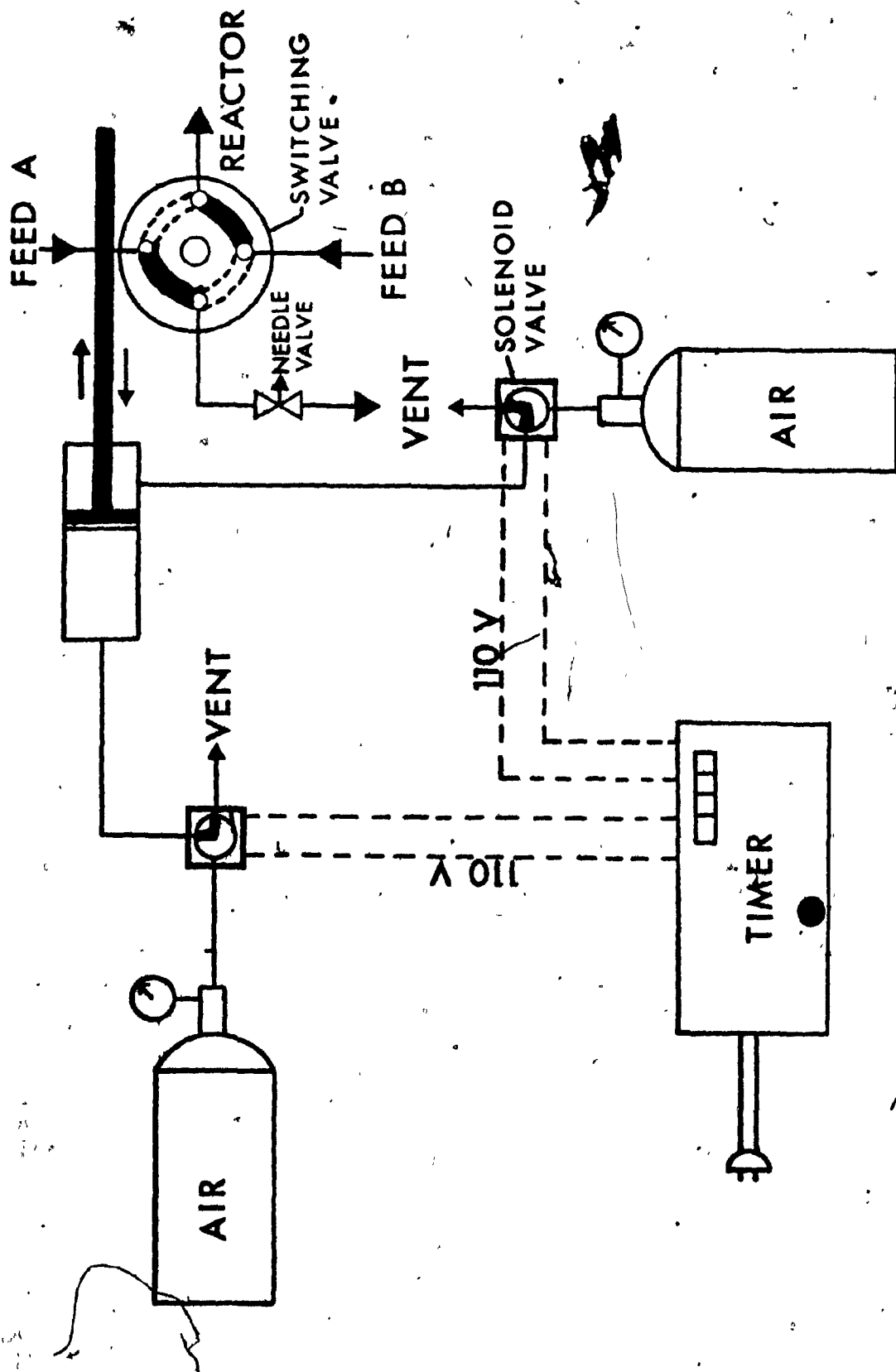
c) The thermostat consisted of three aluminum blocks, 16. They completely enveloped the reactor vessel and the external drive impeller. The heating of the aluminum blocks was done by a series of stainless steel cartridge heaters, 11. They were symmetrically distributed between the three sections of the thermostat. The temperature of the thermostat was controlled by a proportional controller plus a thermocouple sensor. The controller operated a group of trimmer heaters (320 watts). Two variable transformers were manually used to control the rest of the heaters (1500 watts). The thermostat was insulated with a high temperature fiberglass insulation panels, 9.

#### 4.1.3 Concentration signal generator

The concentration signal generator is shown schematically in Figure 4-3. The parts are also pictorially indicated in Figure 4-2. They are air cylinder valves, 4, double acting cylinder, 6, and micro-volume, two-position, switching valve, 8.

By the activation of the switch on the electronic timer, indicated in Figure 4-3, an electrical pulse was generated. The pulse

FIGURE 4-3 Schematic diagram of the concentration signal generator



energized and held the start relay. This supplied power to the solenoid coils, which then rotated the solenoid-actuated three-way valve to supply air pressure to the double-acting cylinder. The shaft of the piston of the cylinder was connected to the stem of the micro-volume switching valve. Then, by means of a single stroke, the valve was rotated through an angle of 90 degrees. This rotation changed the feed stream going to the reactor.

A square wave was generated for, say,  $W$  seconds. Then at the end of this period, a second internal timer pulse energized the return relay. This then operated the second solenoid valve to return the micro-volume switching valve to its original position. Thus the original feed stream to the reactor was returned.

A cross-over switch in the output circuit of the timer allowed either solenoid valve to receive the starting pulse. The duration of the electrical pulse was 100 msec. The switching time of the micro-volume switching valve was 35 msec.

#### 4.2 Experimental Section

##### 4.2.1 Material

###### A. Catalyst Pellet

The catalyst pellet was prepared from zeolite-molecular sieve Type 13X. The ground powder of the zeolite was compressed into the five die holes of the bottom half of the reactor vessel. Sodium chloride was first pressed into the die holes before the catalyst. The purpose of this was to keep the pellet surface near to the top of the die holes.

The compression pressure was about 25,000 psi.

The zeolite powder was added to the top of the sodium chloride. It was then wetted with acetone to provide even pressure distribution within the grains during pressing. The compression pressure applied was about 23,000 psi. Both the thin and thick pellets were formed by the same procedure. To avoid the cracking of the thin pellets when they were raised to the pretreatment temperature of 300°C, they were gradually baked by heating to 60, 80, 100, 120 and 160 °C for one hour each in a vacuum oven..

The catalyst was always regenerated after each set of runs at a given reaction temperature. The regeneration was carried out in a furnace at 300°C for 12 hours. The catalyst was then cooled in a vacuum oven to 60°C.

The pellet density estimated from the dimensions and the weight of the pellet was 1.155 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. The solid density measured with a helium pycnometer was 2.31 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. From the two densities the average pellet porosity was estimated to be 0.500.

The details of the press assembly and the procedure are described by Kelly (1).

#### B. Gases

The purity of the propylene and cyclopropane supplied by Canada Liquid Air was specified to be 99.0 per cent. The nitrogen supplied by Liquid Carbonic Canada Ltd. had a guaranteed minimum purity of 99.9 per cent.

#### 4.2.2 Procedure

##### A. Calibration of the Infra-red Spectrophotometer

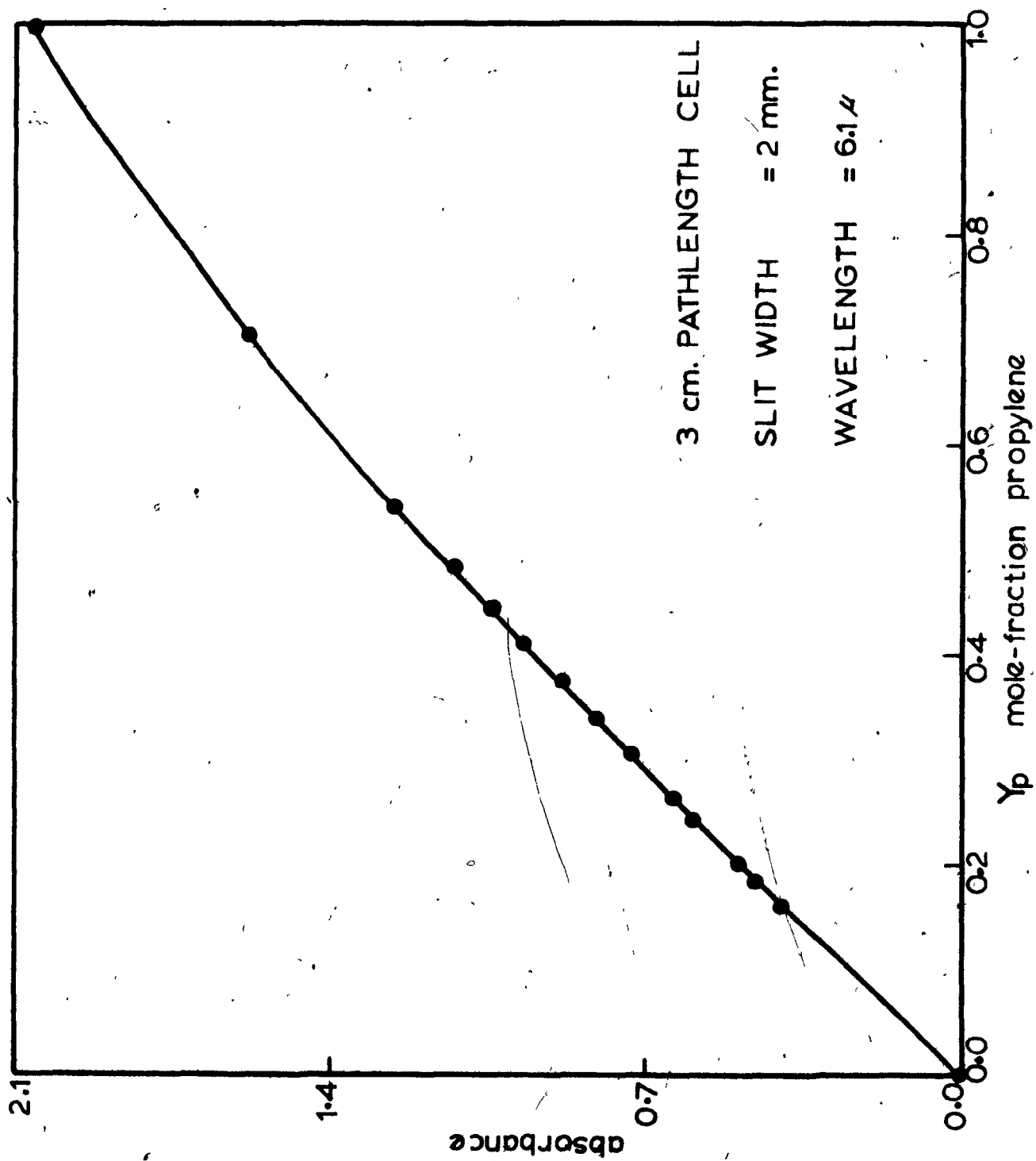
The effluent from the reactor consisted of nitrogen, propylene and cyclopropane. But we were interested in only the concentration of the product. Hence a suitable wavelength of the infra-red spectrum was chosen at which propylene was strongly absorbing while cyclopropane was non-absorbing. Nitrogen presented no problem in the search for this wavelength, because nitrogen is completely transparent throughout the infra-red spectrum. The wavelength of  $6.1 \mu$  was found to satisfy the required condition. However this wavelength is within the water vapour absorption band ( $5.0 - 8.0 \mu$ ). Thus, interference from the atmospheric water vapour was possible.

With the filter set at  $6.1 \mu$ , propylene-nitrogen mixtures of known concentration were passed through the sample cell. The cell had a path length of 3 cm and a volume of  $0.30 \text{ cm}^3$ . The corresponding transmission from the infra-red unit in the form of a voltage signal was measured with a digital voltmeter. A calibration curve was established between the absorbance and the mole fraction of the absorbing gas (propylene). According to the Beer-Lambert Law this curve is expected to be a straight line. However, a slight curvature was observed. A sample of the calibration curve is presented in Figure 4-4. Because of the slight curvature, a second degree polynomial was fitted to the raw data using the method of least squares.

The calibration was carried out at the beginning of each set of runs at a given reaction temperature. This was done because there

FIGURE 4-4

Sample I.R. spectrophotometer calibration curve  
for the propylene- (nitrogen and cyclopropane)



was a slight variation in the performance of the infra-red unit. The voltage signal for the pure component changed slightly each time the experiment was run.

#### B. Reaction

After the pretreatment and regeneration of the catalyst pellets contained in the bottom half of the reactor vessel, the reactor was re-assembled. The reactor was then heated to the required reaction temperature. For both the thin and thick pellets, the reaction was carried out at the following three temperatures: 233°C, 243°C and 254°C.

A mixture of nitrogen and cyclopropane was passed through the reactor after it had attained a steady temperature. The flow rate of the mixture was 5.0 cm<sup>3</sup>/sec at the ambient temperature and pressure. The composition of the mixture was estimated from the flow rate of each component in the mixture. The flow rates were measured with soap bubble meters.

The concentration of the effluent gas attained a steady state two hours after the first feed stream had been passed through the reactor. Subsequent feed streams to the reactor took around 30 minutes to reach steady state. The longer time required for the first feed stream was due to the initial fall of the activity of the catalyst to a steady state.

At steady state, a concentration square wave signal was generated by means of the set of equipment described under Section 4.1.3. Essentially it consisted of instantaneously introducing a second feed of nitrogen-cyclopropane mixture to the reactor at a different concentration. The total flow rate of the second feed stream was also maintained

at  $5.0 \text{ cm}^3/\text{sec}$ .

The concentration of the product (i.e. propylene) in the reactor output was measured continuously by passing it through the infra-red spectrophotometer. The output from the I.R. unit was in the form of a voltage signal. It was recorded on an oscillographic recorder\* as a function of time.

At the end of the transient perturbation, another feed stream was introduced into the reactor to establish a new steady state. The whole procedure was then repeated again.

The mole fraction of cyclopropane in the feed was varied from 0.8 to 0.5 changing in steps of 0.1 for the thick pellet and from 0.8 to 0.4 in steps of 0.2 for the thin pellet. These steps were maintained in order to obtain a measurable difference between the steady state and transient concentrations of propylene.

The beginning of the generation of the signal was indicated by a voltage signal from the timer (Section 4.1.3) to the recorder.

The flow rate of the effluent gas was assumed to be constant and equal to the inlet flow rate in the mathematical model. To check this assumption, the effluent flow rate was measured a number of times during the transient perturbation with the soap bubble meter. The effluent flow rate was observed to vary by less than 2.0 per cent. This is within the 3.0 per cent error caused by the use of the bubble

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\*Sanborn 7702 A Recorder, Hewlett Packard.

meter for the measurement of flow rates.

In order to analyse the experimental data, measurements were also taken of the ambient temperature, the catalyst pellet temperature and the atmospheric pressure.

The calibration curve for the I.R. unit was used to estimate the concentrations of the effluent gas as function of time. The deviation concentrations were then calculated and analysed according to the algorithms derived in the mathematical model.

## 5. RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

### 5.1 Introduction

According to the algorithms developed in the theory, five parameter groups can be calculated from the experimental data. These parameter groups are as follows:

From Equation 3-33,

$$RR_i = \mu_{o,i}/M_i W_i \quad 5-47A$$

Equation 3-36 gives,

$$RF_i = RR_i F_i / (1 - RR_i) \quad 5-47$$

From Equation 3-39, we obtain,

$$Q_i = 0.5 (RR_i - 1)/F_i + \beta \gamma (1/RR_i - RR_i) \quad 5-48$$

$$N_i = \frac{\gamma}{2A^2 \beta} F_i^2 RR_i \quad 5-49$$

and

$$RP_i = 1/\tau_i * [\hat{\mu}_{1,i} - \tau_i (2 - RR_i) - W_i/2] \quad 5-50$$

where  $i$  characterizes the thin ( $i = 1$ ) and thick ( $i = 2$ ) pellets.

At a given reaction temperature and pellet thickness, all the runs were carried out at a constant flow rate. Therefore, all other terms in the parameter groups,  $RF_i$ ,  $Q_i$  and  $RP_i$ , are constant with the exception of  $RR_i$ . Thus, one can obtain the relationship between these parameter groups and the concentration of propylene at steady state,  $\bar{Y}_p$ , by plotting only  $RR_i$  against  $\bar{Y}_p$ . These plots are

FIGURE 5-1

$RR_1$  and  $RP_1$  ( $T = 233.5^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $h_1 = 0.132\text{ cm}$ ) as a function of propylene gas phase molefraction,  $\bar{Y}_p$

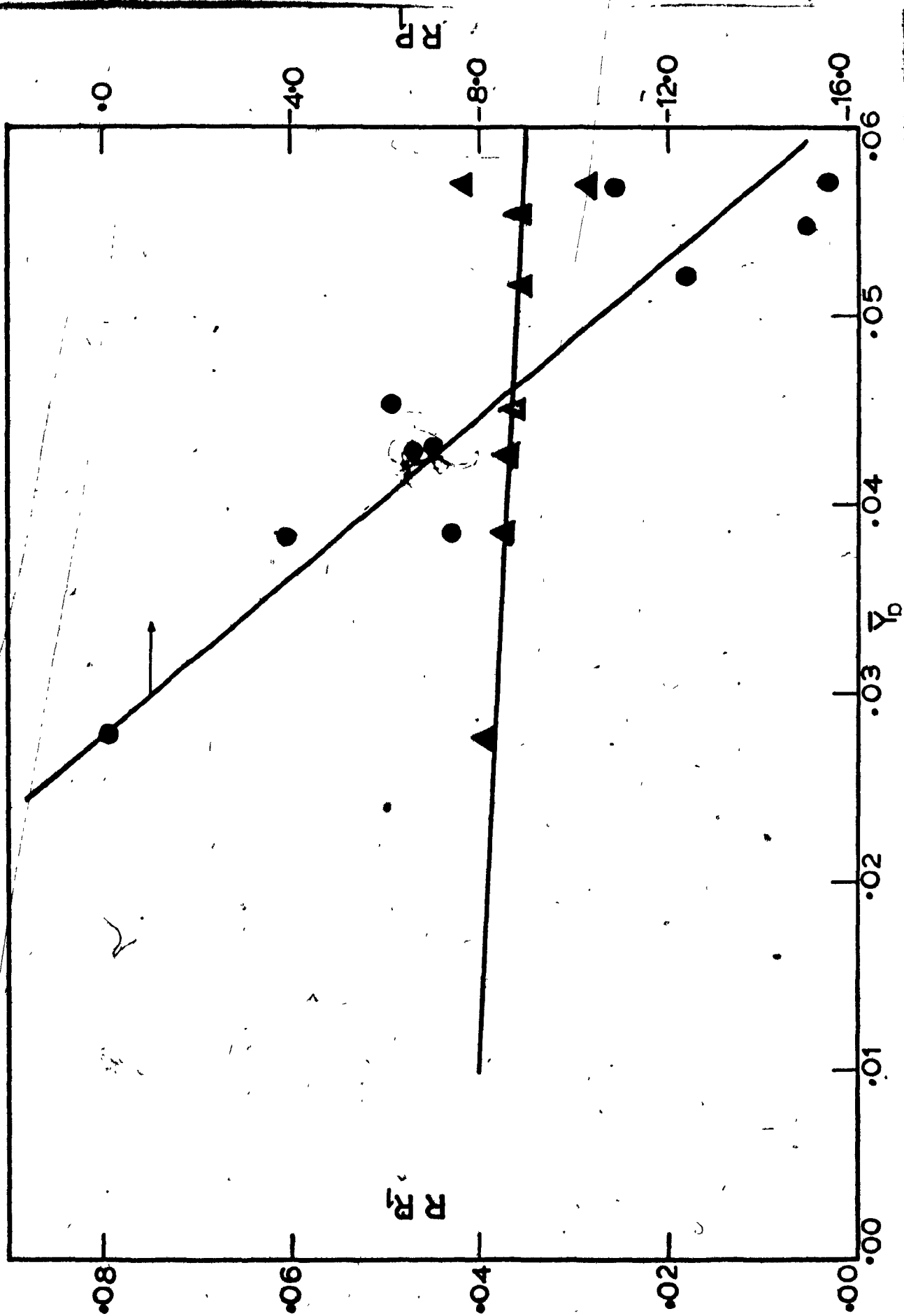


FIGURE 5-2  $RR_2$  and  $RP_2$  ( $T = 233.5^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $h_2 = 0.385\text{ cm}$ ) as a function of propylene gas phase molefraction,  $\bar{Y}_p$

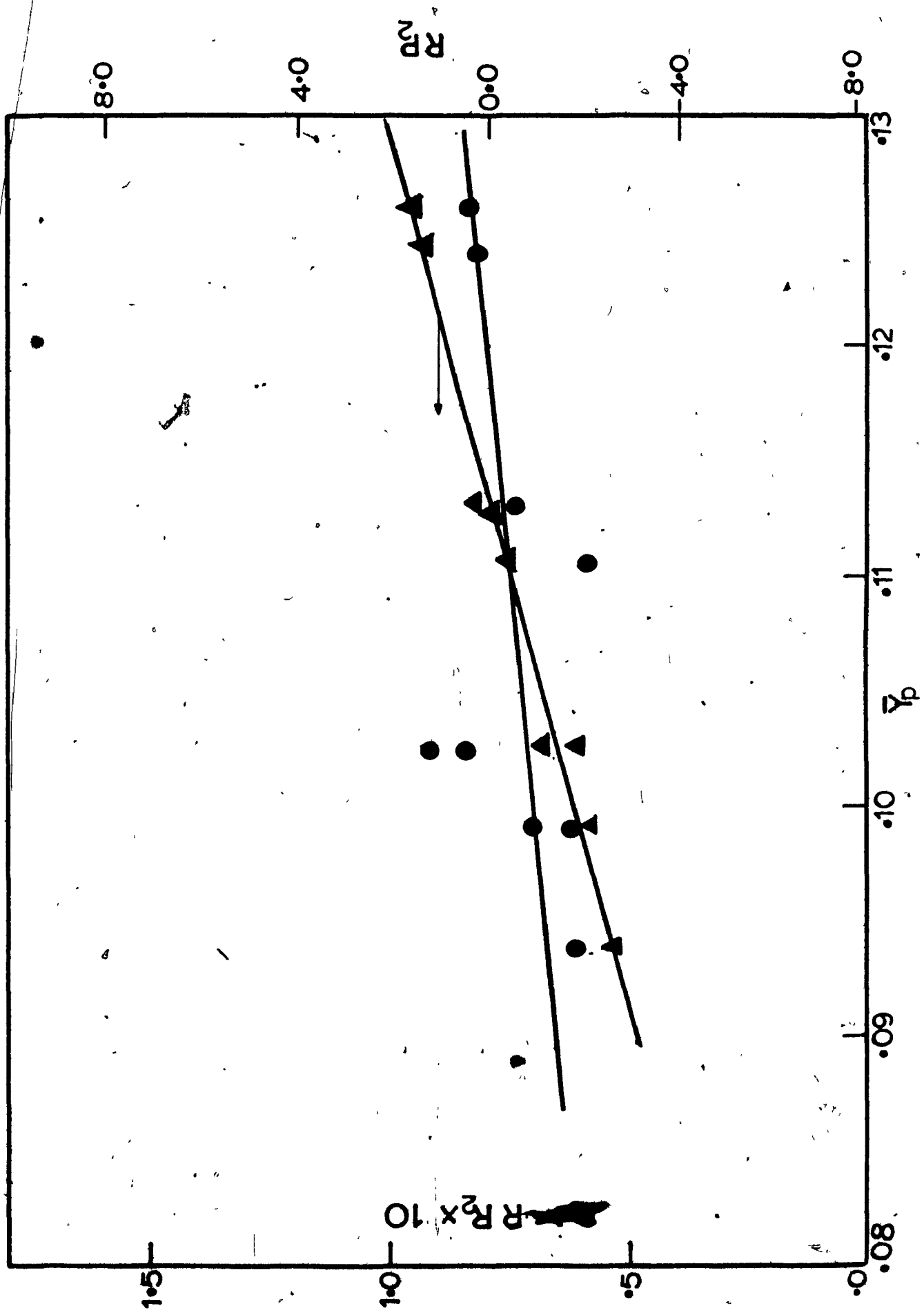


FIGURE 5-3  $RR_1$  and  $RP_1$  ( $T = 243.1^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $h_1 = 0.132\text{ cm}$ ) as a function of propylene gas phase molefraction,  $\bar{Y}_p$

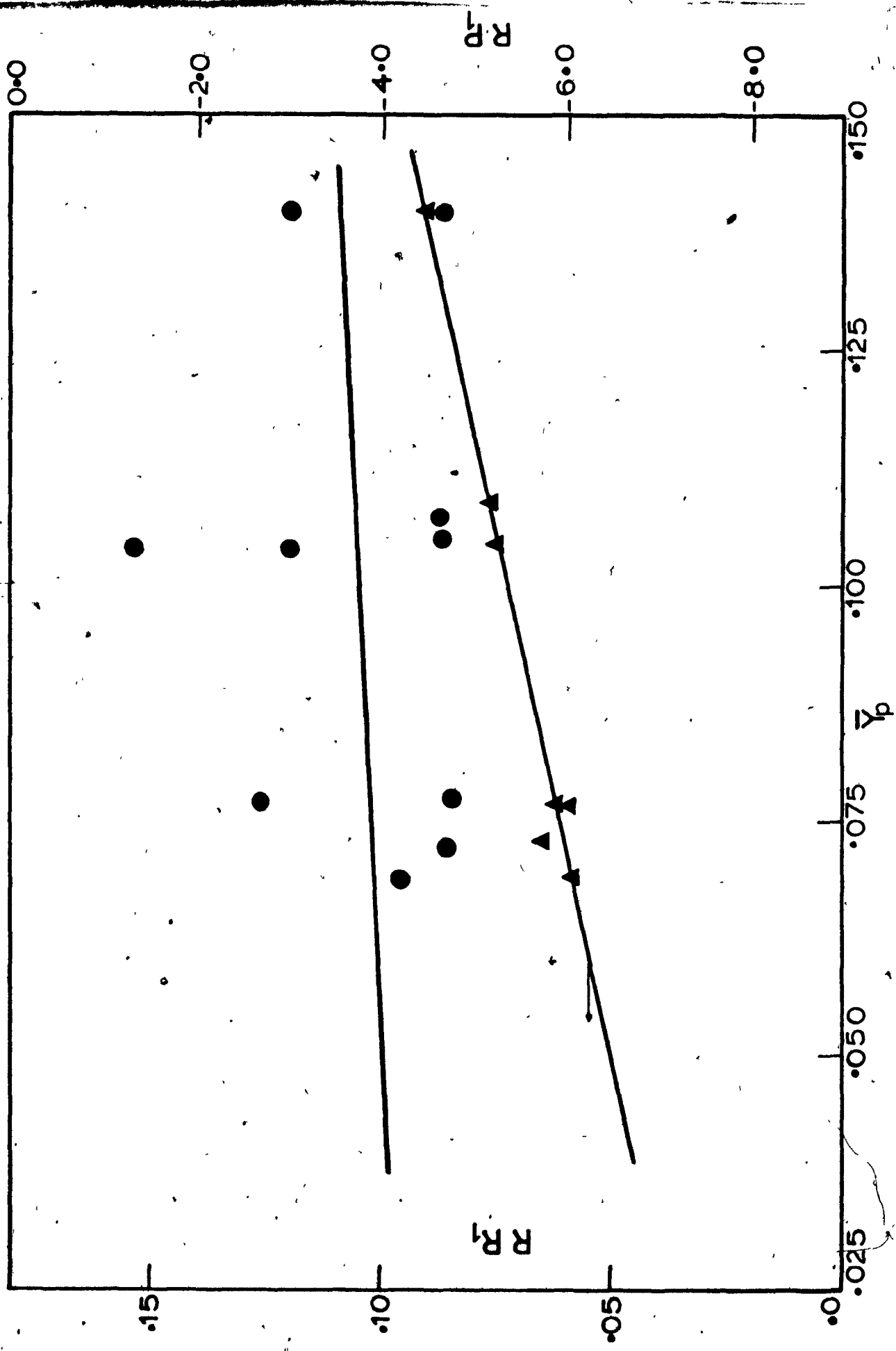


FIGURE 5-4  $RR_2$  and  $RP_2$  ( $T = 243.1^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $h_2 = 0.385 \text{ cm}$ ) as a function of propylene gas phase molefraction,  $\bar{Y}_p$

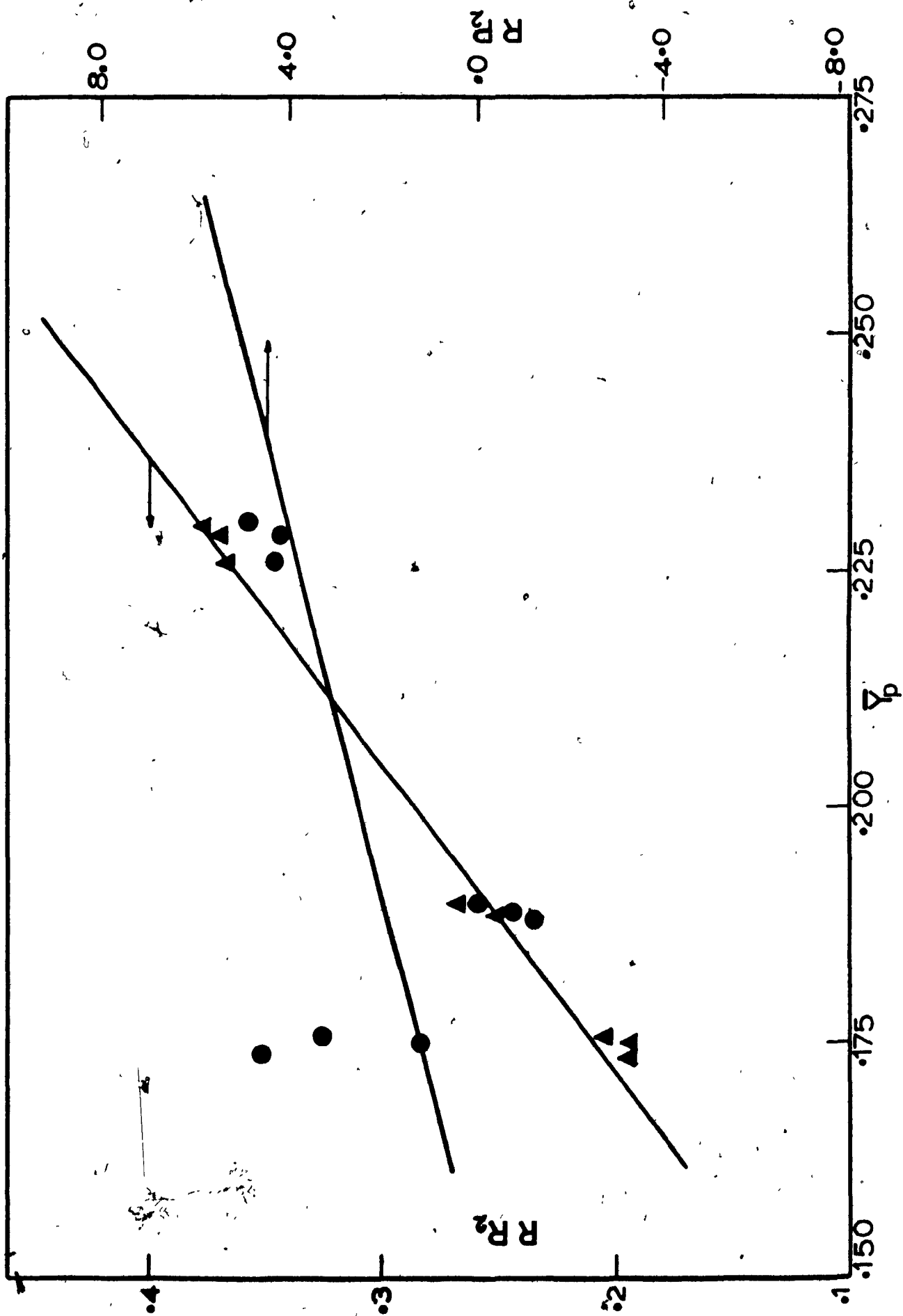


FIGURE 5-5

$RR_1$  and  $RP_1$  ( $T = 254.2^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $h_1 = 0.132\text{ cm}$ ) as a function of propylene gas phase molefraction,  $\bar{Y}_p$

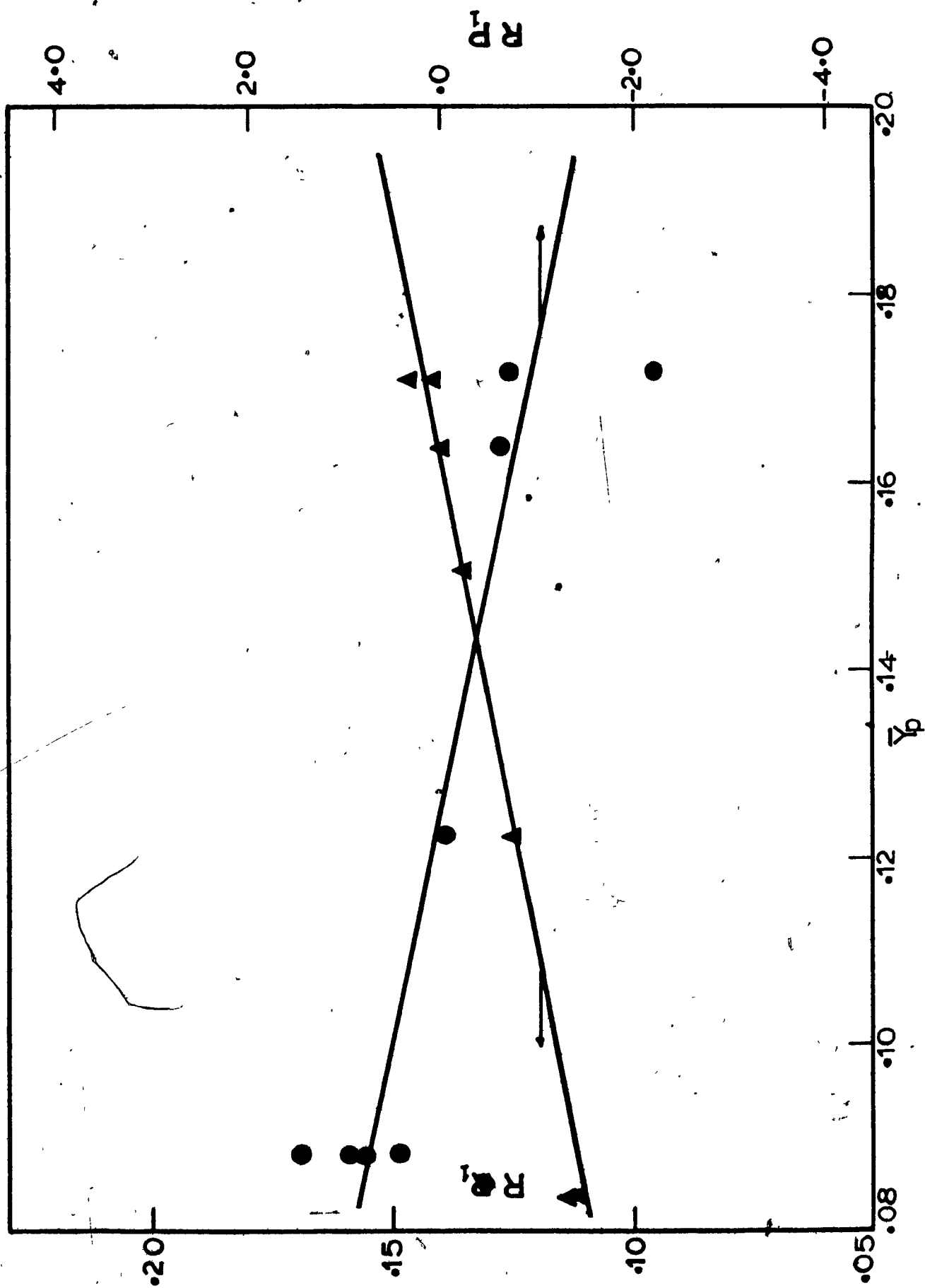
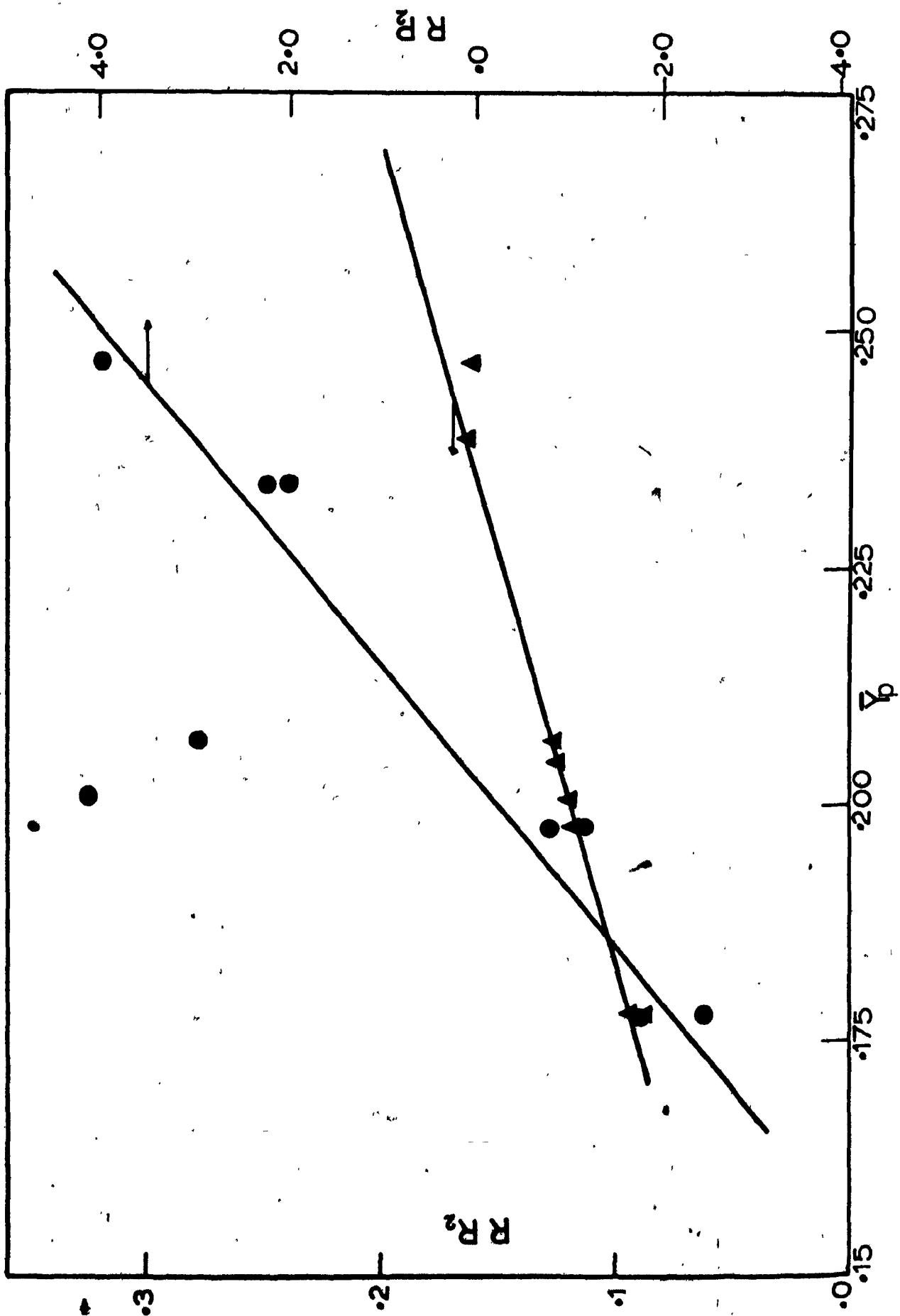


FIGURE 5-6  $RR_2$  and  $RP_2$  ( $T = 254.2^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $h_2 = 0.385 \text{ cm}$ ) as a function of propylene gas phase molefraction,  $Y_p$



presented in Figures 5-1 to 5-6. The results indicate a linear trend as observed by Kelly (1). Hence a linear least square regression was fitted to the raw experimental data.

The parameter group,  $RP_i$ , contains other terms which vary with  $\bar{Y}_p$ , besides  $RR_i$ . These terms are  $\hat{\mu}_{1,i}$ , the first normalized moment and  $W_i$ , the duration of the pulse. Hence  $RP_i$  was plotted separately as a function of  $\bar{Y}_p$ .

The values of  $RP_i$  as a function of  $\bar{Y}_p$  have also been presented in Figures 5-1 to 5-6. There is severe scatter in these data. This is due to the uncertainty in the values of the experimentally measured first absolute moment,  $\mu_{1,i}$ . This in turn was caused by the uncertainty of the exact position of the tail of the response curves. A relatively minor change in the tail concentration was enlarged by multiplication with time.

Despite the scatter, the results for the thick pellet at the three temperatures indicate a linear trend. Hence, again, a linear least square regression was fitted to the  $RP_i$  parameter groups.

Table 5-1 lists the intercepts and slopes of all fitted straight lines with estimates of their standard deviations. The standard deviations (computed from the sum of squared residuals) of the data about the fitted straight lines are also presented.

Combining the linear regressed values of the parameter groups for both thin and thick pellets at a given  $\bar{Y}_p$ , Equations 3-31 to 3-46 were solved to estimate the  $k$ ,  $D$ ,  $\psi_A$  and  $\psi_p$  parameters. The values of

TABLE 5-1

Linear Regression Coefficients for Parameter Groups  
as a Function of Reactant Gas Phase Molefraction,  $Y_p$

Average Reaction Temperature	Parameter Group	Intercept	Estimated Standard Deviation	Slope	Estimated Standard Deviation	Standard Deviation About the Line
233.5	RR <sub>1</sub>	$4.10 \times 10^{-2}$	$5.55 \times 10^{-3}$	$-9.98 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.19 \times 10^{-1}$	$3.44 \times 10^{-4}$
	RR <sub>2</sub>	$-7.50 \times 10^{-2}$	$9.98 \times 10^{-3}$	1.36	$9.99 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.24 \times 10^{-3}$
	RP <sub>1</sub>	13.18	3.07	$-4.74 \times 10^2$	6.59x10	1.90
	RP <sub>2</sub>	-5.83	3.77	$4.90 \times 10^1$	3.46x10	1.12
243.1	RR <sub>1</sub>	$2.83 \times 10^{-2}$	$2.75 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.46 \times 10^{-1}$	$2.68 \times 10^{-2}$	$2.09 \times 10^{-3}$
	RR <sub>2</sub>	$-9.42 \times 10^{-2}$	$4.69 \times 10^{-2}$	1.07	$2.23 \times 10^{-1}$	$5.23 \times 10^{-3}$
	RP <sub>1</sub>	-4.26	5.26	5.20	51.20	1.26
	RP <sub>2</sub>	-16.10	1.99	78.80	9.46	$7.03 \times 10^{-1}$
254.2	RR <sub>1</sub>	$7.86 \times 10^{-2}$	$5.16 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.83 \times 10^{-1}$	$3.93 \times 10^{-2}$	$4.29 \times 10^{-3}$
	RR <sub>2</sub>	$-3.28 \times 10^{-1}$	$1.17 \times 10^{-3}$	3.07	$2.96 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.16 \times 10^{-2}$
	RP <sub>1</sub>	1.52	3.77	-4.34	28.67	3.12
	RP <sub>2</sub>	-7.69	7.01	51.02	35.29	2.39

TABLE 5-2

Values of the Parameters at an  
Average Reaction Temperature of 233.5°C

Gas Phase Propylene Molefraction $\bar{Y}$	Ratio $RF_1/RF_2$	$\beta$ $cm^{-1}$	$k$ $sec^{-1}$ $\times 10^3$	$D$ $cm^2 sec^{-1}$ $\times 10^4$	$\psi_A$	$\psi_P$
0.080	1.0087	-	-	-	-	-
0.085	0.8226	8.78	4.596	0.576	6.72	- 61.52
0.090	0.6900	6.27	2.788	0.710	9.40	- 63.53
0.095	0.5908	4.82	1.701	0.731	14.11	- 71.06
0.100	0.5137	3.77	0.996	0.700	22.70	- 84.48
0.105	0.4523	2.89	0.516	0.618	41.85	-113.57
0.110	0.4021	2.06	0.180	0.425	115.48	-217.61
0.115	0.3603	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE 5-3

Values of the Parameters at an  
Average Reaction Temperature of 243.1°C

Gas Phase Propylene Molefraction $\bar{Y}$	Ratio $RF_1/RF_2$	$\beta$ $cm^{-1}$	$k$ $sec^{-1}$ $\times 10^3$	$D$ $cm^2 sec^{-1}$ $\times 10^4$	$\psi_\Delta$	$\psi_p$
0.18	1.1244	-	-	-	-	-
0.20	0.9857	18.683	58.556	1.678	3.66	- 13.73
0.25	0.7813	7.874	13.324	2.149	10.48	- 18.97
0.28	0.7052	6.509	7.178	1.694	20.01	- 28.66
0.30	0.6646	5.878	4.900	1.418	30.29	- 38.71
0.35	0.5850	4.743	1.785	0.793	91.79	- 96.04
0.40	0.5240	3.911	0.260	0.170	701.52	-644.63
0.45	0.4734	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE 5-4

Values of the Parameters at an  
Average Reaction Temperature of 254.2°C

Gas Phase Propylene Molefraction $\bar{Y}$	Ratio $RF_1/RF_2$	$\beta$ $cm^{-1}$	$k$ $sec^{-1}$ $\times 10^3$	$D$ $cm^2 sec^{-1}$ $\times 10^4$	$\psi_\Delta$	$\psi_p$
0.160	0.8433	-	-	-	-	-
0.170	0.7059	6.521	311.51	73.25	0.44	0.19
0.180	0.6048	5.017	48.45	19.25	2.68	- 2.37
0.184	0.5713	4.556	28.78	13.87	4.48	- 4.22
0.186	0.5557	4.344	22.28	11.81	5.77	- 5.52
0.188	0.5409	4.142	17.16	10.00	7.47	- 7.21
0.190	0.5267	3.948	13.05	8.37	9.81	- 9.50
0.192	0.5132	3.762	9.70	6.86	13.17	- 12.75
0.195	0.4939	3.495	5.75	4.71	22.18	- 21.41
0.200	0.4644	3.071	1.11	1.18	114.70	- 109.29
0.250	0.2727	-	-	-	-	-

these parameters are presented in Tables 5-2, 5-3 and 5-4.

The solution to Equation 3-36 does not exist for all values of the ratio,

$$\frac{RF_1}{RF_2} = \frac{RR_1 F_1 / (1 - RR_1)}{RR_2 F_2 / (1 - RR_2)} \quad 5-51$$

If we now define  $f$ , as.

$$f(\beta) = \tanh(h_1 \beta) - \frac{RF_1}{RF_2} \tanh(h_2 \beta) \quad 5-52$$

then for the solution of Equation 3-36 to exist, we should have two values of  $\beta$ ,  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$ , such that, for  $h_2$  greater than  $h_1$ ,

$$f(\beta_1) < 0$$

and

$$f(\beta_2) > 0$$

where

$$\beta_2 > \beta_1 > 0$$

Case 1:  $\beta_1$

For small positive values of  $\beta$ , ( $\beta_1$ ) such that

$$\tanh(h_1 \beta_1) \approx h_1 \beta_1$$

and

$$\tanh(h_2 \beta_1) \approx h_2 \beta_1$$

$f$  is given by

$$f(\beta_1) = h_1 \beta_1 - \frac{RF_1}{RF_2} h_2 \beta_1 < 0$$

and therefore,

$$\frac{RF_1}{RF_2} > \frac{h_1}{h_2}$$

$$= 0.34293$$

5-53

Case 2:  $\beta_2$

For large values of  $\beta$ , ( $\beta_2$ ) such that

$$\tanh(h_1\beta_2) - \tanh(h_2\beta_2) = 1$$

f is given by,

$$f = 1 - \frac{RF_1}{RF_2} > 0$$

Hence,

$$\frac{RF_1}{RF_2} < 1$$

5-54

Therefore for the experiments under consideration in this study,

- ( $RF_1/RF_2$ ) should lie within the following ranges, in order that solution to Equation 3-36 may exist:

$$0.34293 < \frac{RF_1}{RF_2} < 1.0$$

5-55

Kelly (1) made the same observation when he solved the zero moment equations for  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ .

Tables 5-2, 5-3 and 5-4 show the dependency of all parameters on the molefraction of the product  $Y_p$ . It can be seen that both the

first order reaction rate constant,  $k$ , and the intra-particle diffusion coefficient,  $D$ , decrease with increase in  $\bar{Y}_p$ . The slope of the sorption isotherms of the reactant,  $\psi_\Delta$  increases with increase in  $\bar{Y}_p$ . Negative values of the slope of the sorption isotherms of the product were observed and their magnitude increases as  $\bar{Y}_p$  increases.

The negative value of the slope of the sorption isotherm for propylene,  $\psi_p$ , can be justified by a more detailed examination of the adsorption phenomena. Let us assume that the adsorption isotherms can be represented in the vicinity of the steady state by Langmuir adsorption equations:

$$C_\Delta = \frac{C_T P_T K_\Delta Y_\Delta}{1 + P_T K_\Delta Y_\Delta + P_T K_P Y_P} \quad 5-56$$

$$C_P = \frac{C_T P_T K_P Y_P}{1 + P_T K_\Delta Y_\Delta + P_T K_P Y_P} \quad 5-57$$

For small deviations about the steady state,  $c_\Delta$  can be given as,

$$\begin{aligned} c_\Delta &= \left( \frac{\partial C_\Delta}{\partial Y_\Delta} \right)_{\bar{Y}_p} y_\Delta + \left( \frac{\partial C_\Delta}{\partial Y_P} \right)_{\bar{Y}_\Delta} y_P \\ &= \psi_{\Delta\Delta} y_\Delta + \psi_{\Delta p} y_P \end{aligned} \quad 5-58$$

Therefore, according to Equation 5-56

$$\psi_{\Delta\Delta} = \frac{C_T P_T K_\Delta}{1 + P_T K_\Delta Y_\Delta + P_T K_P Y_P} - \frac{C_T P_T^2 K_\Delta^2 Y_\Delta}{(1 + P_T K_\Delta Y_\Delta + P_T K_P Y_P)^2} \quad 5-59$$

and

$$\psi_{\Delta p} = - \frac{C_T P_T^2 K_\Delta K_P Y_\Delta}{(1 + P_T K_\Delta Y_\Delta + P_T K_P Y_P)^2} \quad 5-60$$

Similarly,

$$c_p = \psi_{pp} y_p + \psi_{p\Delta} y_\Delta \quad 5-61$$

$$\psi_{pp} = \frac{C_T P_T K_p}{1 + P_T K_\Delta Y_\Delta + P_T K_p Y_p} - \frac{C_T P_T^2 K_p^2 Y_p}{(1 + P_T K_\Delta Y_\Delta + P_T K_p Y_p)^2} \quad 5-62$$

and

$$\psi_{p\Delta} = - \frac{C_T P_T^2 K_\Delta K_p Y_p}{(1 + P_T K_\Delta Y_\Delta + P_T K_p Y_p)^2} \quad 5-63$$

Hence from Equations 5-60 and 5-63,

$$\frac{\psi_{\Delta p}}{\psi_{p\Delta}} = \frac{Y_\Delta}{Y_p} = \eta \quad 5-64$$

According to the results of the experiment,  $\eta$  lies between 2.4 and 5.3.

From Equations 5-58 and 5-61, the sum of the deviation values of cyclopropane and propylene concentration is given by,

$$c = (\psi_{\Delta\Delta} + \psi_{p\Delta}) y_\Delta + (\psi_{pp} + \psi_{\Delta p}) y_p \quad 5-65$$

Therefore the slopes of the sorption isotherms defined in Equations 3-7a, 3-7b and 3-7c are

$$\psi_\Delta = \psi_{\Delta\Delta} + \psi_{p\Delta} \quad 5-66$$

$$\psi_p = \psi_{pp} + \psi_{\Delta p} \quad 5-67$$

Hence, from Equation 5-64,

$$\psi_p = \psi_{pp} + \eta \psi_{p\Delta} \quad 5-68$$

From Tables 5-2, 5-3 and 5-4 it can be observed that the values of  $\psi_{pp}$  and  $\psi_{p\Delta}$  are comparable with each other. The multiplication factor,

$\eta$ , for  $\psi_{p\Delta}$  varies from 2.4 to 5.3. Thus the second term  $\eta\psi_{p\Delta}$  in Equation 5-68 becomes greater than the first term,  $\psi_{pp}$  in magnitude. Moreover,  $\eta\psi_{p\Delta}$  is negative, thus resulting in a negative value of  $\psi_p$ .

## 5.2 Sorption Isotherms

Suppose the sorption isotherm for cyclopropane is given by

$$C_{\Delta} = G_{\Delta}(Y_{\Delta}, Y_p) \quad 5-69$$

Then,

$$\frac{dC_{\Delta}}{dY_{\Delta}} = \frac{\partial G_{\Delta}}{\partial Y_{\Delta}} + \frac{\partial G_{\Delta}}{\partial Y_p} \frac{dY_p}{dY_{\Delta}} \quad 5-70$$

$$= \psi_{\Delta\Delta} + \psi_{\Delta p} \frac{dY_p}{dY_{\Delta}} \quad 5-71$$

$$= \psi_{\Delta\Delta} + \psi_{p\Delta} \cdot \frac{Y_{\Delta}}{Y_p} \cdot \frac{dY_p}{dY_{\Delta}} \quad 5-72$$

Assuming that,

$$\frac{dY_p}{dY_{\Delta}} = \frac{y_p}{y_{\Delta}} \quad 5-73$$

where  $y_p$  and  $y_{\Delta}$  are the small deviations from the steady state values,  $\bar{Y}_p$  and  $\bar{Y}_{\Delta}$ , the experimental data indicated that,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{Y_{\Delta}}{Y_p} \frac{dY_p}{dY_{\Delta}} &= \frac{\bar{Y}_{\Delta}}{\bar{Y}_p} \frac{y_p}{y_{\Delta}} \\ &\approx 1 \end{aligned} \quad 5-74$$

$\bar{Y}_{\Delta}$  is also related to  $\bar{Y}_p$  by

$$\bar{Y}_{\Delta} = \bar{Y}_p \left( \frac{100}{s} - 1 \right) \quad 5-75$$

where  $s$  is the percentage steady state conversion. From the experimental data,  $s$  was found to be independent of concentration, hence,

$$\frac{Y_{\Delta}}{Y_P} = \frac{dY_{\Delta}}{dY_P} \quad 5-76$$

From these two experimental observations and from Equation 5-72 we can conclude that

$$\frac{dC_{\Delta}}{dY_{\Delta}} \approx \psi_{\Delta\Delta} + \psi_{P\Delta} \quad 5-77$$

Hence from Equation 5-66,

$$\frac{dC_{\Delta}}{dY_{\Delta}} \approx \psi_{\Delta} \quad 5-78$$

and, therefore, the binary sorption isotherm for cyclopropane can be obtained from  $\psi_{\Delta}$  and  $Y_{\Delta}$ .

Knowing the slopes of the sorption isotherm of pure propylene at a given temperature where cyclopropane reacts, those of pure cyclopropane could be estimated from Equations 5-64, 5-66 and 5-67. Tables 5-5, 5-6 and 5-7 contain such slopes ( $\psi_{\Delta\Delta}$ ) obtained from the results of the present investigation. The slopes for pure propylene ( $\psi_{pp}$ ) were extracted from the results of Kelly (1).

The sorption isotherms of 233.5, 243.1 and 254.2 for the pure cyclopropane obtained from the slopes estimated as above are presented in Figure 5-7. The shape of the isotherms indicate possible combination of mono and multi-layer adsorption. Similar types of isotherms were obtained by Kelly (1) working with cyclopropane on 13X zeolite pellets at 217°C and by Reyerson and Cameron (60) working with bromine and iodine on silica gel at 137.7°C, 99.9°C, 79°C and 58°C.

TABLE 5-5

Slopes of Sorption Isotherms  
Under Reaction Conditions at 233.5°C

Experimental Variables

Temperature	= 233.5	
Pressure	= 750.2	mm Hg
Volumetric Flow Rate, F	= 8.37	cm <sup>3</sup> sec <sup>-1</sup>
Gas Phase Volume, V <sup>+</sup>	= 275.41	cm <sup>3</sup>
Exposed Area, A	= 101.34	cm <sup>2</sup>
Catalyst Thickness, h	= 0.385	cm
Porosity, $\theta$	= 0.50	( $\frac{\text{cm}^3 \text{ pore vol.}}{\text{cm}^3 \text{ pellet vol.}}$ )
Percentage Steady State Conversion	= 15.83	%

$\bar{Y}_p$	$\bar{Y}_\Delta$	$\psi_\Delta$	$\psi_p$	$\psi_{pp}$	$\psi_{\Delta p}$	$\psi_{p\Delta}$	$\psi_{\Delta\Delta}$
0.085	0.452	6.70	- 61.52	20.50	- 82.02	-15.42	22.13
0.090	0.479	9.40	- 63.57	20.20	- 83.77	-15.75	25.15
0.095	0.505	14.11	- 71.06	20.00	- 91.06	-17.13	31.24
0.100	0.532	22.70	- 84.84	19.80	-104.64	-19.68	42.38
0.105	0.558	41.85	-113.57	19.60	-133.17	-25.05	66.90
0.110	0.585	115.48	-217.61	19.45	-237.06	-44.58	160.06

TABLE 5-6

Slopes of Sorption Isotherms  
Under Reaction Conditions at 243.1°C

Experimental Variables

Temperature	- 243.1 °C
Pressure	- 761.8 mm Hg
Volumetric Flow Rate, F	- 8.53 cm <sup>3</sup> sec <sup>-1</sup>
Gas Phase Volume, V <sup>+</sup>	- 275.41 cm <sup>3</sup>
Exposed Area, A	- 101.34 cm <sup>2</sup>
Catalyst Thickness, h	- 0.385 cm
Porosity, $\theta$	- 0.50
Percentage Steady State Conversion, s	- 29.30 %

$\bar{Y}_p$	$\bar{Y}_\Delta$	$\psi_\Delta$	$\psi_p$	$\psi_{pp}$	$\psi_{\Delta p}$	$\psi_{p\Delta}$	$\psi_{\Delta\Delta}$
0.20	0.483	3.66	- 13.73	15.20	- 28.93	- 11.99	15.65
0.25	0.603	10.48	- 18.97	13.20	- 32.17	- 13.33	23.81
0.28	0.676	20.06	- 28.66	12.30	- 40.96	- 16.97	36.98
0.30	0.724	30.29	- 38.71	11.70	- 50.41	- 20.89	51.19
0.33	0.796	57.34	- 64.26	10.90	- 75.16	- 31.15	88.49
0.35	0.845	91.79	- 96.04	10.45	- 106.49	- 44.13	135.93
0.37	0.893	161.08	- 159.05	10.00	- 169.05	- 70.06	231.14
0.40	0.965	701.52	- 644.63	9.40	- 654.03	- 271.05	972.57

TABLE 5-7

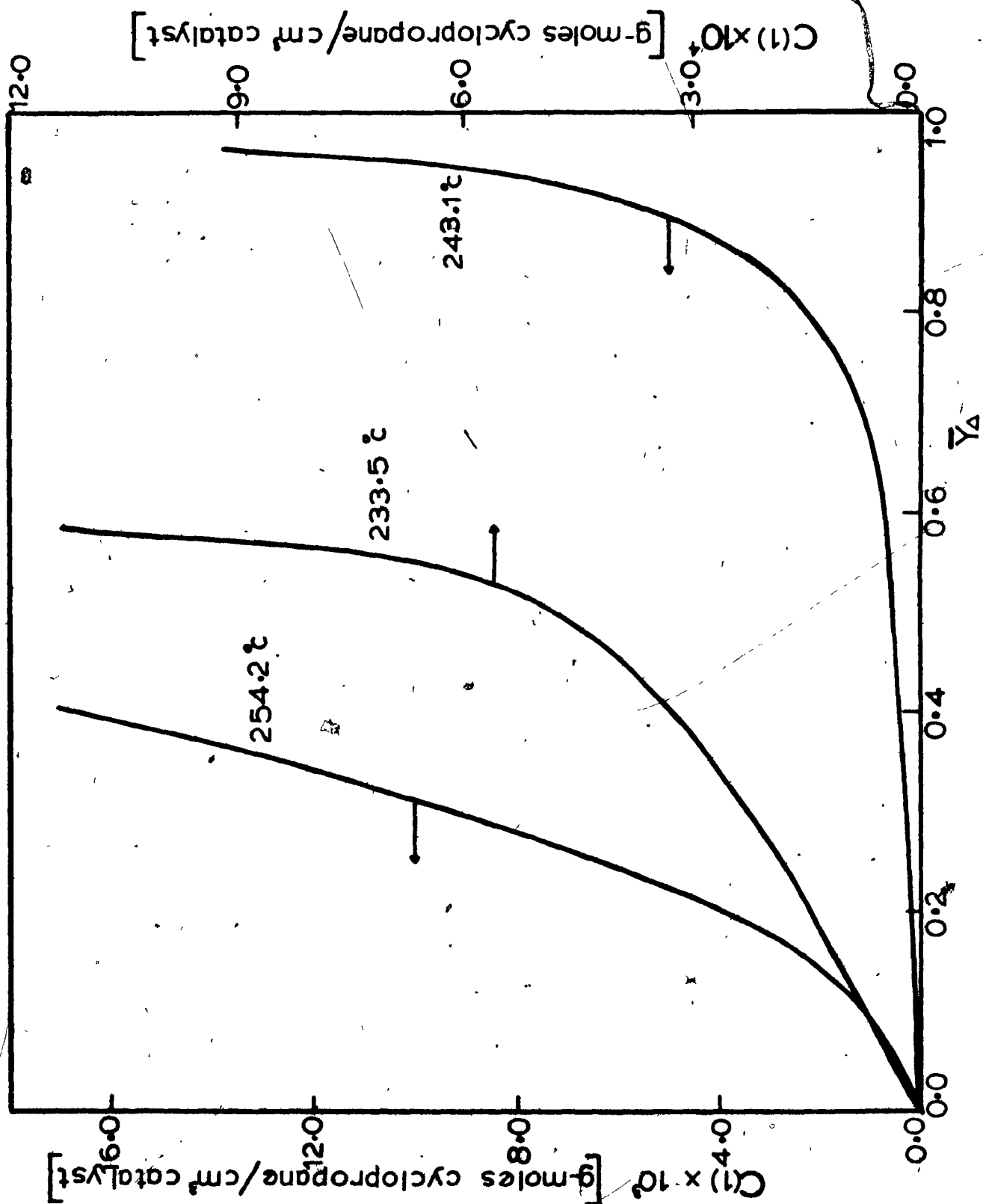
Slopes of Sorption Isotherms  
Under Reaction Conditions at 254.2°C

Experimental Variables

Temperature	- 254.2	°C
Pressure	- 761.4	mm Hg
Volumetric Flow Rate, F	- 8.66	cm <sup>3</sup> sec <sup>-1</sup>
Gas Phase Volume, V <sup>+</sup>	- 275.41	cm <sup>3</sup>
Exposed Area, A	- 101.34	cm <sup>2</sup>
Catalyst Thickness, h	- 0.385	cm
Porosity, $\theta$	- 0.05	
Percentage Steady State Conversion, s	- 28.6	%

$Y_p$	$Y_\Delta$	$\psi_\Delta$	$\psi_p$	$\psi_{pp}$	$\psi_{\Delta p}$	$\psi_{p\Delta}$	$\psi_{\Delta\Delta}$
0.170	0.424	0.438	0.194	14.6	- 14.41	- 5.77	6.21
0.180	0.449	2.69	- 2.37	14.0	- 16.27	- 6.52	9.20
0.186	0.464	5.77	- 5.52	13.8	- 19.32	- 7.74	11.72
0.190	0.474	9.81	- 9.50	13.6	- 23.10	- 9.25	19.06
0.195	0.484	22.18	- 21.41	13.4	- 34.81	- 13.94	36.12
0.200	0.499	114.70	- 109.29	13.1	- 122.39	- 49.02	163.72

FIGURE 5-7 / Sorption isotherms of cyclopropane



### 5.3 Integral Average Values of k and D

It is obvious from Tables 5-2, 5-3 and 5-4 that both the first order reaction rate constant  $k$ , and the intra-particle diffusivity have a strong dependency on concentration. In order to compare the results of this study with the results previously reported by Kelly (1), the integral average values of these parameters were calculated as follows:

$$\bar{f} = \frac{1}{\bar{Y}_{P_2} - \bar{Y}_{P_1}} \int_{\bar{Y}_{P_1}}^{\bar{Y}_{P_2}} f(\bar{Y}_P) d\bar{Y}_P \quad 5-79$$

where  $f = k$  or  $D$ .

These integral average values for the  $k$  and  $D$  parameters are presented in Table 5-8. Two temperatures are presented in certain rows of Table 5-8. The first temperature is the average reaction temperature for the present research and the second one is for Kelly's research (1).

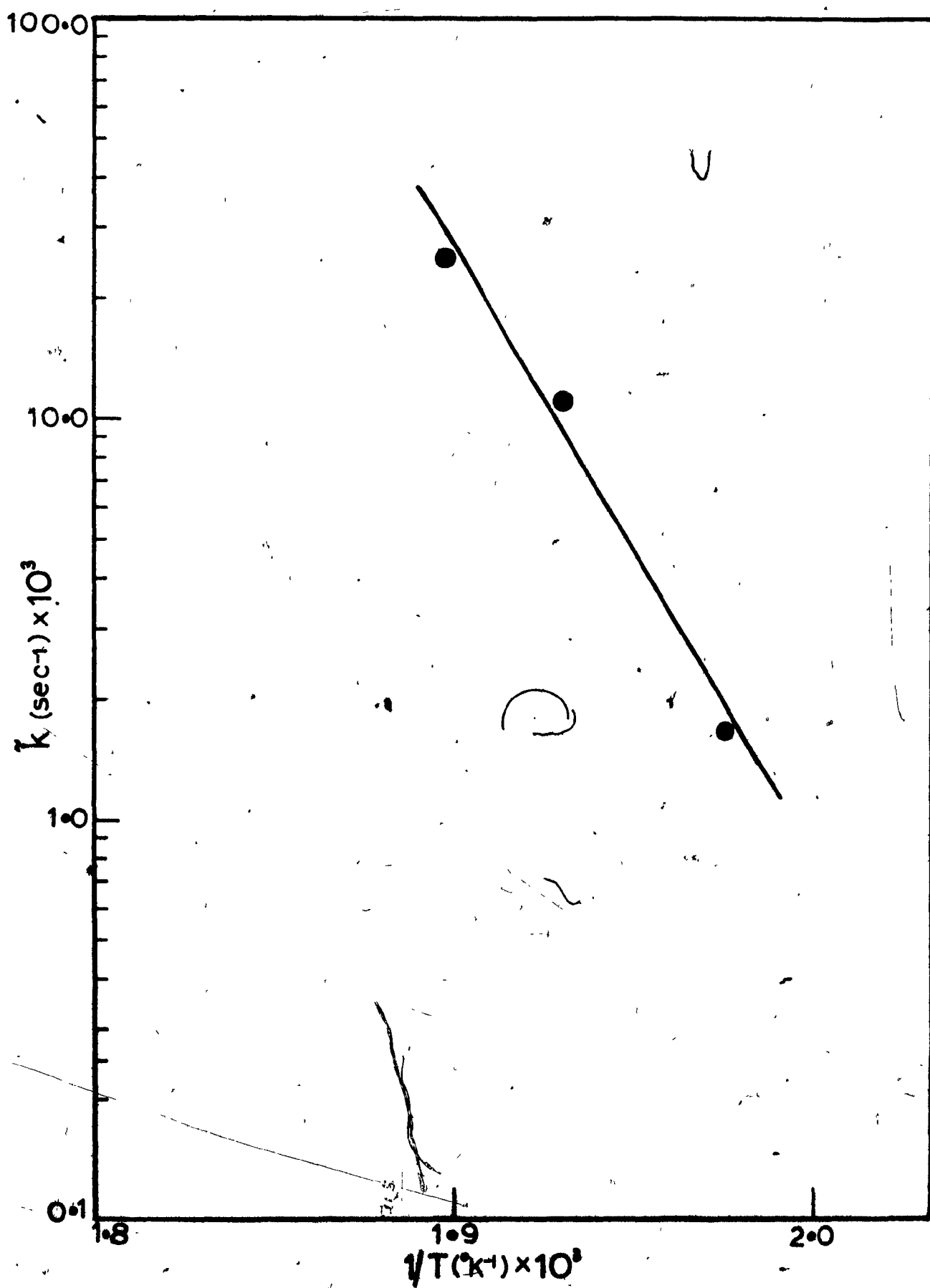
Despite the slight difference in temperature at around 252°C, values of the parameters for the two research projects are almost the same. The first order reaction rate constants for the present model gave an activation energy of 31.1 kcal/g-mole. We may compare this value with Kelly's (1) value of 35.7 kcal/g-mole and Habgood and George's (59) value of 40.5 kcal/g-mole.

TABLE 5-8

$\tilde{k}$  and  $\tilde{D}$  Values for the Present  
and Kelly's (30) Model

	Present Model Using Product Concentration		Kelly's (30) Model Using Reactant Concentration	
Temperature °C	$\tilde{D}(\text{cm}^2\text{sec}^{-1})$ $\times 10^4$	$\tilde{k}(\text{sec}^{-1})$ $\times 10^3$	$\tilde{D}(\text{cm}^2\text{sec}^{-1})$ $\times 10^4$	$\tilde{k}(\text{sec}^{-1})$ $\times 10^3$
217.3	-	-	4.1	23
233.5-233.3	0.67	1.65	24.2	9.5
243.1	1.35	11.23	-	-
254.2-251.2	10.21	24.78	11.8	25.3

FIGURE 5-8. Integral average reaction rate constant,  $k$   
as a function of reciprocal of reaction  
temperature,  $T^\circ K$ .



## 6. DISCUSSION

### 6.1 Variance Analysis for the Estimated Parameters

As can be seen, the values of the parameters,  $k$ ,  $D$ ,  $\psi_\Delta$  and  $\psi_p$  depend on four parameter groups,  $RR_1$ ,  $RR_2$ ,  $RP_1$  and  $RP_2$ . The variance of  $k$ ,  $D$ ,  $\psi_\Delta$  and  $\psi_p$  is then given by

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_f^2 = & \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial RR_1} \right)_{RR_2, RP_1, RP_2}^2 \sigma_{RP_1}^2 + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial RR_2} \right)_{RR_1, RP_1, RP_2}^2 \sigma_{RR_2}^2 \\ & + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial RP_1} \right)_{RR_1, RR_2, RP_2}^2 \sigma_{RP_1}^2 + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial RP_2} \right)_{RR_1, RR_2, RP_1}^2 \sigma_{RP_2}^2 \dots\dots 5-80 \end{aligned}$$

where  $f = k, D, \psi_\Delta$  or  $\psi_p$ .

The partial derivatives of the parameters with respect to the parameter groups can be calculated approximately. This is done by estimating the change in the parameters for a small change in one of the parameter groups about a nominal value while the rest are kept constant as implied by the definition. This is equivalent to a sensitivity test.

Tables 5-8, 5-9 and 5-10 contain the partial derivatives for the  $k$ ,  $D$ ,  $\psi_\Delta$  and  $\psi_p$  parameters at the three reaction temperatures. The nominal values about which the partial derivatives were estimated are also presented.

From the standard deviations of the parameter groups listed in Table 5-1, the variances of the  $k$ ,  $D$ ,  $\psi_\Delta$  and  $\psi_p$  parameters at the average reaction temperature of 233.5°C are given by,

TABLE 5-9

Numerical Approximations to the Partial Derivatives  
of the  $k$ ,  $D$ ,  $\psi_A$  and  $\psi_p$  Parameters  
with Respect to the Parameter Groups  $RR_1$ ,  $RR_2$ ,  $RP_1$ ,  $RP_2$  at  $233.5^\circ\text{C}$

Temperature  $- 233.5^\circ\text{C}$   
Percentage Change of the Parameter Group  $- 1.0\%$

## Nominal Values

Molefraction of Propylene,  $Y_p = 0.10$   
 $RR_1 = 3.1999 \times 10^{-2}$   
 $RR_2 = 6.1097 \times 10^{-2}$   
 $RP_1 = -34.226$   
 $RP_2 = -0.9318$   
 $k = 9.9556 \times 10^{-4}$   
 $D = 7.8049 \times 10^{-5}$   
 $\psi_A = 22.704$   
 $\psi_p = -84.841$

	$\Delta k$	$\Delta D$	$\Delta \psi_A$	$\Delta \psi_p$
$\Delta RR_1$	0.1185	$-2.188 \times 10^{-4}$	-1700.00	2390.6
$\Delta RR_2$	-0.0683	$3.175 \times 10^{-4}$	1513.91	1869.1
$\Delta RP_1$	$3.383 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.380 \times 10^{-6}$	- 0.778	2.740
$\Delta RP_2$	$3.001 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.102 \times 10^{-6}$	0.674	- 1.510

TABLE 5-10

Numerical Approximations to the Partial Derivatives  
of the  $k$ ,  $D$ ,  $\psi_{\Delta}$  and  $\psi_p$  Parameters  
with Respect to the Parameter Groups  $RR_1$ ,  $RR_2$ ,  $RP_1$ , and  $RP_2$  at  $243.1^{\circ}\text{C}$

Temperature  $- 243.1^{\circ}\text{C}$   
Percentage Change in the Parameter Group  $- 1.0\%$

## Nominal Values

Molefraction of Propylene, $Y_p$	$-$	0.30
$RR_1$	$-$	0.1620
$RR_2$	$-$	0.2270
$RP_1$	$-$	-2.6953
$RP_2$	$-$	7.5419
$k$ , $\text{sec}^{-1}$	$-$	$4.8988 \times 10^{-3}$
$D$ , $\text{cm}^2 \text{sec}^{-1}$	$-$	$1.4177 \times 10^{-4}$
$\psi_{\Delta}$	$-$	30.294
$\psi_p$	$-$	-38.710

	$\Delta k$	$\Delta D$	$\Delta \psi_{\Delta}$	$\Delta \psi_p$
$\Delta RR_1$	0.1347	$2.778 \times 10^{-4}$	-467.3	527.8
$\Delta RR_2$	-0.1066	$-4.449 \times 10^{-4}$	600.0	-544.1
$\Delta RP_1$	$4.758 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.413 \times 10^{-5}$	-2.9368	4.535
$\Delta RP_2$	$-4.748 \times 10^{-4}$	$-1.379 \times 10^{-5}$	2.958	-3.515

TABLE 5-11

Numerical Approximations of the Partial Derivatives  
of the  $k$ ,  $D$ ,  $\psi_\Delta$  and  $\psi_p$  Parameters  
with Respect to the Parameter Groups  $RR_1$ ,  $RR_2$ ,  $RP_1$  and  $RP_2$  at  $254.2^\circ\text{C}$

Temperature =  $254.2^\circ\text{C}$   
Percentage Change in the Parameter Group = 1.0%

Nominal Values

Molefraction of Propylene,  $\bar{Y}_p$  = 0.185  
 $RR_1$  = 0.1495  
 $RR_2$  = 0.2409  
 $RP_1$  = 0.7172  
 $RP_2$  = 1.7529  
 $k$  =  $2.5329 \times 10^{-2}$   
 $D$  =  $1.2801 \times 10^{-3}$   
 $\psi_\Delta$  = 5.0825  
 $\psi_p$  = -4.8321

	$\Delta k$	$\Delta D$	$\Delta \psi_\Delta$	$\Delta \psi_p$
$\Delta RR_1$	1.121	2.080	-160.4	174.5
$\Delta RR_2$	-0.8195	$-1.860 \times 10^{-2}$	168.2	-161.9
$\Delta RP_1$	$2.455 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.255 \times 10^{-3}$	-4.099	6.360
$\Delta RP_2$	$-2.411 \times 10^{-2}$	$-1.217 \times 10^{-3}$	4.914	- 5.371

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_k^2 &= 1.662 \times 10^{-9} + 4.897 \times 10^{-8} + 4.132 \times 10^{-9} + 1.130 \times 10^{-9} \\ &= 5.589 \times 10^{-8} \quad \dots 5-81\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_D^2 &= 5.665 \times 10^{-15} + 1.058 \times 10^{-12} + 2.045 \times 10^{-11} + 5.542 \times 10^{-12} \\ &= 2.70 \times 10^{-11} \quad \dots 5-82\end{aligned}$$

$$\sigma_{\psi_\Delta}^2 = 0.342 + 24.050 + 2.185 + 0.5698 = 27.16 \quad 5-83$$

$$\sigma_{\psi_P}^2 = 0.676 + 36.670 + 27.102 + 2.860 = 40.21 \quad 5-84$$

Similarly, the variances for the parameters at 243.1°C are given by

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_k^2 &= 7.93 \times 10^{-8} + 3.108 \times 10^{-7} + 3.59 \times 10^{-7} + 1.11 \times 10^{-7} \\ &= 8.60 \times 10^{-7} \quad \dots 5-85\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_D^2 &= 3.37 \times 10^{-13} + 8.65 \times 10^{-13} + 3.17 \times 10^{-10} + 9.40 \times 10^{-11} \\ &= 4.12 \times 10^{-10} \quad \dots 5-86\end{aligned}$$

$$\sigma_{\psi_\Delta}^2 = .95 + 9.85 + 13.69 + 4.32 = 27.81 \quad 5-87$$

$$\sigma_{\psi_P}^2 = 1.21 + 8.10 + 32.65 + 70.57 = 121.53 \quad 5-88$$

At 254.2 the variances for the parameters are obtained as follows

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_k^2 &= 2.31 \times 10^{-5} + 9.04 \times 10^{-6} + 5.87 \times 10^{-3} + 3.32 \times 10^{-3} \\ &= 9.22 \times 10^{-3} \quad \dots 5-89\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_D^2 &= 7.96 \times 10^{-5} + 4.66 \times 10^{-8} + 1.53 \times 10^{-5} + 8.46 \times 10^{-6} \\ &= 10.34 \times 10^{-5} \quad \dots 5-90\end{aligned}$$

$$\sigma_{\psi_\Delta}^2 = 0.474 + 3.81 + 163.56 + 137.93 = 305.80 \quad 5-91$$

$$\sigma_{\psi_P}^2 = 0.749 + 3.53 + 393.75 + 164.78 = 562.71 \quad 5-92$$

TABLE 5-12

Nominal Values of  $k$ ,  $D$ ,  $\psi_\Delta$  and  $\psi_p$   
Parameters with their Approximate Standard Deviations

Average Temperature °C	Parameters	$k$ $\text{sec}^{-1}$ $10^3$	$D$ $\text{cm}^2\text{sec}^{-1}$ $10^4$	$\psi_\Delta$	$\psi_p$
233.5	Nominal Values	0.996	0.700	22.70	-84.84
	Approximate Standard Deviations	0.24	0.052	5.21	6.34
243.1	Nominal Values	4.9	1.42	30.29	-38.71
	Approximate Standard Deviations	0.93	0.20	5.27	10.61
254.2	Nominal Values	25.33	12.80	5.08	- 4.8
	Approximate Standard Deviations	96.03	101.68	17.49	23.72

It is evident from Tables 5-8, 5-9, and 5-10 that the values of the parameters  $k$ ,  $D$ ,  $\psi_\Delta$  and  $\psi_p$  are more sensitive to the  $RR_i$  group parameters than  $RP_i$ . However, because of the appreciable scatter in the experimental data of  $RP_i$  group parameters, they have larger standard deviations than  $RR_i$  group parameters as indicated by Table 5-1. Therefore, it is not surprising that Equations 5-81 to 5-92 indicate almost equal contribution from all the parameter groups to the variances of the parameters. Even Equations 5-86 to 5-89, 5-91 and 5-92 indicate that  $RP_i$  parameter groups contribute more to the variances of the parameter than  $RR_i$  parameter groups, contrary to the observation of Kelly (1).

According to Table 5-12 the results at 233.5°C and 243.1°C indicate low standard deviations compared to the nominal values. In all cases, the standard deviation is less than 30 per cent of the nominal values. On the other hand the results at 254.2°C show that the standard deviations are multiples of the nominal values. This was caused by the large scatter of the experimental data for the parameter groups. With respect to the  $RR_i$  parameter groups, the standard deviations of the fitted lines at 254.2°C are about 10 times the standard deviations at the other average reaction temperatures.

## 6.2 Variation in the Estimated Parameters

Contrary to expectation, the estimated first-order reaction rate constant,  $k$ , and the intra-particle diffusivity vary with concentration. This deviation from the hypothesis underlying the development of the mathematical model can be attributed to a number of factors. With

respect to the reaction rate constant,  $k$ , its variation with concentration can be attributed to the fact that the reaction rate may not be first order. It is possible that the reaction goes through a series of steps which results in a non-first order reaction rate. It is possible that the product, propylene, underwent a significant amount of further reaction such as dimerization. Hence the concentration of propylene was underestimated.

There is no particular reason to expect  $D$  to be independent of concentration. However, the model is followed fairly well at lower temperatures, but not at  $254^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Possibly this is caused by the increased rate of dimerization at high temperatures.

In developing the mathematical model it was assumed that the concentration deviation was negligible compared to the steady state value. However, the sensitivity of the concentration detector was not high enough to allow a deviation concentration to be small. A sample of the program output presented in the Appendix indicates a maximum concentration deviation of about 11 per cent of the steady state value. Thus the concentration deviation is not negligible compared to the steady state value. This could account for the variation of  $k$ ,  $D$  with concentration.

There was considerable scatter in the raw experimental data and this definitely affected the values of the estimated parameters.

In the mathematical model it was assumed that the external mass transfer resistance is negligible compared with the diffusional and reaction resistance. This is not strictly true. The surface of the

pellets were not in line with the top of the die holes and this could result in significant interfacial mass transfer resistance. A slight crack between a pellet and the reactor could permit a leakage flux between the bulk gas phase and the vertical side of the pellet. This would have the effect of systematic errors in  $A$  and  $h$ , but the contribution is probably small and, in any case, it is nearly constant for all of the experiments.

## 7. CONCLUSION

A mathematical model based on the concentration of the product for the estimation of the parameters characterizing heterogeneous catalysis had been developed. The parameters are the first-order reaction rate constant, diffusion coefficient and the slopes of the sorption isotherms for the product and the reactant.

The mathematical model was tested with a continuous stirred volume catalytic reactor (gradientless) using the pulse response technique. The reaction was the isomerization of cyclopropane to propylene on 13X zeolite catalyst.

Kelly (1) performed the same experiment. However, in basing the mathematical model on the reactant concentration he could estimate only three parameters, namely the first-order reaction rate constant, diffusion coefficient and the slope of the sorptional isotherm for the reactant.

The estimated first-order reaction rate constant,  $k$ , and the diffusion coefficient,  $D$ , varied with concentration. However the integral average values of these parameters can be compared with those reported by Kelly (1). At the average reaction temperature around 252°C,  $\bar{k}$  and  $\bar{D}$  compare very favourably (Table 5-8).

With the present mathematical model, the slopes of the binary sorption isotherms for both the reactant and the product had been determined simultaneously. It had been observed that the slope of the

binary sorption isotherm for the product (propylene), which is less selectively adsorbed than the reactant (cyclopropane) by the 13X zeolite catalyst (1), was negative. This observation can be explained assuming the Langmuir-Hinshelwood sorption isotherms in the vicinity of the steady state.

Knowing the slopes of the sorption isotherm of the product (and assuming the Langmuir-Hinshelwood sorption isotherms), those of the reactant could be estimated from the mathematical model developed. The shape of the sorption isotherm indicates a combination of mono- and multi-layer adsorption.

Within the limits of the accuracy of the concentration detector and assuming that there is no sorption of nitrogen at the reaction temperature, it can be concluded from the experimental results that the steady state conversion of the reactant is independent of the reactant inlet concentration to the reactor.

The results of the present investigation indicate considerable improvement in the degree of certainty in the experimentally measured moment zero-moment as compared to the results of Kelly (1). The parameters were very sensitive to the parameter groups involving only the zero-moment ( $RR_1$ ). However, this was cancelled out by the small standard deviations of the linear regressed lines fitted to the raw experimental data.

There was large scatter of the parameter groups involving the first normalized moment ( $RP_1$ ). This was also cancelled out by the low

sensitivity of the parameters to these parameter groups. Thus the variance analysis indicated equal contribution to the variance of the parameters from all the parameter groups.

In developing the mathematical model, it was assumed that the concentration deviation about the steady state value was negligible compared to the steady state value. But in order that the deviation concentration could be monitored, it had to be large enough. This demanded that the molefraction of the reactant in the inlet gas be pulsed by 0.2 for the thin pellet and 0.1 for the thick pellet when generating the square wave. A sample of the program output has been presented in the Appendix. It indicates a maximum concentration deviation of about 11 per cent of the steady state value. Thus the concentration deviation is not negligible compared to the steady state value. This could account for the variation of the estimated parameters with concentration.

The most effective way to eliminate this constraint is to use a more sensitive concentration detector so that the deviation could be made as small as possible.

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APPENDIX A

FIGURE A-1 Programme listings for the estimation of the parameter groups from the raw experimental data, and a sample output.

```

C NUMBER OF DATA POINTS (RESPONSE)
C REACTOR TEMPERATURE FALLING ON DETECTOR WITH NO ABSORBING SAMPLE PRESENT
C REACTOR TEMPERATURE (K)
C TEMPERATURE (DEGREES K)
C JOURN RUN COUNT NUMBER
C I(J) = SAMPLE FALLING ON THE DETECTOR WITH ABSORBING SAMPLE PRESENT
C KMLP(J) = HALF FRACTION OF COMPONENT FOLLOWED IN REACTOR RESPONSE
C TIME(J) = TIME (HOURS)
C ABSORPTION COEFFICIENT (J)
C P(J) = PARTIAL PRESSURE
C C(J) = CONCENTRATION
C R(J) = CONCENTRATION * TIME
C R(J) IS A GENERATED FUNCTION
C DESIG(J) REPRESENTS THE FUNCTION SUMMATION THAT
C CALCULATES THE INTEGRAL OF A GENERATED FUNCTION
C U0 AND U1 ARE THE NORMALIZED 1ST AND 2ND MOMENTS
C U01 IS THE NORMALIZED 1ST MOMENT
C IS THE NUMBER OF COMPLETE RUNS TO BE ANALYZED
C CC = STEADY STATE CONCENTRATION
C CCNV = STEADY STATE CONVERSION
C CCNV = TRANSIENT STATE CONVERSION
C FLOW = VOLUMETRIC GAS FLOWRATE
C VOLUME = VOLUME OF GAS PHASE
C AREA = TOTAL SURFACE AREA OF PELLET
C L = THICKNESS OF PELLET
C IMPLICIT REAL*8(A-H,L,O-S),INTEGER(I-N)
C DIMENSION N(100),DI(100),ADDR(100),PA(100),CONC(100),TIME(100)
C ,D(100),M(100),KMLP(100),PAR(100),CONV(100),RR(100),RR(100),RR(100)
C ,CC(100),RR(100),RR(100),RR(100),V(100)
C READ(5,100)
C READ(5,11) JN
C FORMAT(10)
C NO 1000 JOURN = 1.0
C READ(5,111)
C READ(5,12) RPRD
C FORMAT(10,10)
C READ(5,101),R,C
C READ(5,101),VOLUME,AREA,L,THETA
C FORMAT(10,10)
C READ(5,101) PRESS,TEMP
C WRITE(6,40)
C WRITE(6,40)
C WRITE(6,40) VOLUME
C WRITE(6,40)
C WRITE(6,51) AREA
C WRITE(6,40)
C WRITE(6,40) L
C WRITE(6,40)
C WRITE(6,51) THETA
C WRITE(6,40)
C WRITE(6,40) PRESS
C WRITE(6,40)
C WRITE(6,40) TEMP
C WRITE(6,40)

```

0001  
0002

0003  
0004  
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0021  
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0027

432843



[illegible]

516821A





.....  
VPLUR= 0.275410+03  
RMA = 0.101240+03  
L = 0.304910+00  
TMC1A= 0.000000+00  
PWRSS= 9.701000+03  
TEMP = 0.000000+03  
A = 0.000000+00  
B = 0.770700+00  
C = 0.700700+01  
ZERO= 0.100000+00  
.....

RUN COMP=170

ABSOLUTE VALUES

TIME	MINV	ROBLE	PAIRM H01	CONLID-MOLB/CL
0	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
0.100000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
0.200000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
0.300000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
0.400000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
0.500000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
0.600000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
0.700000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
0.800000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
0.900000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
1.000000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
1.100000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
1.200000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
1.300000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
1.400000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
1.500000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
1.600000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
1.700000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
1.800000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
1.900000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
2.000000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
2.100000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
2.200000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
2.300000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
2.400000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
2.500000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
2.600000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
2.700000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
2.800000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
2.900000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04
3.000000+00	0.000000+01	0.000000+00	0.170000+03	0.000000-04

432-55

### DEVIATION VALUES

CONFIDENTIAL

[illegible]

156251

48/452

48/452

```
*****
SCALEP= 0.000000-01
TIMEP= 0.000000-00
PL0V= 0.000000-01
N= 003
U= 0.000000-00
U0= 0.702070-03
U1= 0.070070-01
UV1= 0.110120-03
U0= 0.120010-00
UV2= 0.100000-00
UV2= 0.001000-00
XSTOP= 0.001100-00
R0= 0.000000-00
TCNV= 0.000000-00
SCNV= 0.000000-00
SCNV= 0.000000-00
*****
```

INTEGRATION ERROR CHECK (END)

APPENDIX A

FIGURE A-2 Programme listings for the estimation of the parameters from the parameter groups and a sample output.

000000 000000

LISTED

```

0017 WRITE(6,64)M,JL
0018 WRITE(6,70)
0019 WRITE(6,70)
0020 WRITE(6,70)
0021 WRITE(6,64) (NMC(J)
0022 WRITE(6,70)
0023 WRITE(6,70) NAVE
0024 WRITE(6,70)
0025 WRITE(6,70) NP(1,J),NP(2,J)
0026 WRITE(6,70)
0027 WRITE(6,70) NP(1,J),NP(2,J)
0028 WRITE(6,70)
0029 WRITE(6,70) NP(1,J),NP(2,J)
0030 WRITE(6,70)
0031 WRITE(6,70) NP(1,J),NP(2,J)
0032 WRITE(6,70)
0033 WRITE(6,64) NP(1,J),NP(2,J)
0034 WRITE(6,70)
0035 CALL SUBROUTINE(P,EPG,7010,4,0,17MAX,100)
0036 WRITE(6,64) N
0037 WRITE(6,70)
0038 P=PIB)
0039 WRITE(6,70) P
0040 WRITE(6,70)
0041 IF(17N,60,100) GO TO 11
0042 IF(17N,60,100) GO TO 10
0043 GO TO 10
0044 11 WRITE(6,12)
0045 GO TO 40
0046 12 FORMAT(10,'FOR, ALGORITHM FAILED TO CONVERGE IN 17MAX ITERATIONS')
0047 WRITE(6,10)
0048 GO TO 40
0049 10 FORMAT(10,'ZONING NOT(NTA) TO BE FOUND FOR THE SPECIFIED RANGE')
0050 WRITE(6,10)
0051 10 WRITE(6,10)
0052 10 WRITE(6,10)
0053 10 WRITE(6,10)
0054 10 WRITE(6,10)
0055 10 WRITE(6,10)
0056 10 WRITE(6,10)
0057 10 WRITE(6,10)
0058 10 WRITE(6,10)
0059 10 WRITE(6,10)
0060 10 WRITE(6,10)
0061 10 WRITE(6,10)
0062 10 WRITE(6,10)
0063 10 WRITE(6,10)
0064 10 WRITE(6,10)
0065 10 WRITE(6,10)
0066 10 WRITE(6,10)
0067 10 WRITE(6,10)
0068 10 WRITE(6,10)
0069 10 WRITE(6,10)
0070 10 WRITE(6,10)
0071 10 WRITE(6,10)
0072 10 WRITE(6,10)
0073 10 WRITE(6,10)
0074 10 WRITE(6,10)
0075 10 WRITE(6,10)
0076 10 WRITE(6,10)
0077 10 WRITE(6,10)
0078 10 WRITE(6,10)
0079 10 WRITE(6,10)
0080 10 WRITE(6,10)
0081 10 WRITE(6,10)
0082 10 WRITE(6,10)
0083 10 WRITE(6,10)
0084 10 WRITE(6,10)
0085 10 WRITE(6,10)
0086 10 WRITE(6,10)
0087 10 WRITE(6,10)
0088 10 WRITE(6,10)
0089 10 WRITE(6,10)
0090 10 WRITE(6,10)
0091 10 WRITE(6,10)
0092 10 WRITE(6,10)
0093 10 WRITE(6,10)
0094 10 WRITE(6,10)
0095 10 WRITE(6,10)
0096 10 WRITE(6,10)
0097 10 WRITE(6,10)
0098 10 WRITE(6,10)
0099 10 WRITE(6,10)
0100 10 WRITE(6,10)

```

```
0100      DIP1=PAK1/RA
0101      DIP2=PAK2/RA
0102      WRITE(6,63) ANG1, ANG2
0103      WRITE(6,70)
0104      WRITE(6,60) GAM1,GAM2
0105      WRITE(6,70)
0106      WRITE(6,67) PHI, PHI
0107      WRITE(6,70)
0108      WRITE(6,60) PHI, PHI
0109      WRITE(6,70)
0110      WRITE(6,60)
0111      WRITE(6,70)
0112      WRITE(6,67)
0113      WRITE(6,70)
0114      WRITE(6,60)
0115      WRITE(6,70)
0116      WRITE(6,60) PAK1, PAK2
0117      WRITE(6,70)
0118      WRITE(6,61) PSIP1, PSIP2
0119      WRITE(6,70)
0120      WRITE(6,61) PSIDL1, PSIDL2
0121      WRITE(6,70)
0122      WRITE(6,63) DIP1,DIP2
0123      WRITE(6,70)
0124      WRITE(6,60)
0125      GO TO 40
0126
0127      120  WRITE(6,101)
0128      40  CONTINUE
0129      110  FORMAT('0',10X,'END SOLUTION FOR QUADRATIC EQUATION')
0130      71  FORMAT('1',/////////)
0131      40  FORMAT(41X,63(1H))
0132      70  FORMAT(41X,'0',61X,'0')
0133      72  FORMAT(41X,'0',20X,'TEMPERATURE',010.0,10X,'0')
0134      60  FORMAT(41X,'0',27X,11,21X,11,11X,'0')
0135      50  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,24XP,15X,012.0,10X,012.0,5X,'0')
0136      51  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,24XP,15X,012.0,10X,012.0,5X,'0')
0137      52  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,24XP,15X,012.0,10X,012.0,5X,'0')
0138      53  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,24XP,15X,012.0,10X,012.0,5X,'0')
0139      54  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,24XP,15X,012.0,10X,012.0,5X,'0')
0140      55  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,24XP,15X,012.0,10X,012.0,5X,'0')
0141      56  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,24XP,15X,012.0,10X,012.0,5X,'0')
0142      57  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,24XP,15X,012.0,10X,012.0,5X,'0')
0143      58  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,24XP,15X,012.0,10X,012.0,5X,'0')
0144      59  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,24XP,15X,012.0,10X,012.0,5X,'0')
0145      60  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,'K',14X,012.0,10X,012.0,5X,'0')
0146      61  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,'PSIP',15X,012.0,10X,012.0,5X,'0')
0147      62  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,'PSIDL',11X,012.0,10X,012.0,5X,'0')
0148      63  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,'DIP',14X,012.0,10X,012.0,5X,'0')
0149      64  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,'XINOUT',10X,012.0,27X,'0')
0150      65  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,'0',10X,012.0,27X,'0')
0151      74  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,'0',10X,012.0,27X,'0')
0152      73  FORMAT(41X,'0',5X,'RAYID',12X,012.0,27X,'0')
0153      100  CONTINUE
          STOP
```

4953579

PORTMAN, IV 01 RELEASE 3.0

P

DATE = 7/20/60

11/20/60

WAPI 0001

```
0001      FUNCTION PI(PTA)
0002      IMPLICIT REAL*8(N=1,N=5),INTEGER(I=1,N)
0003      COMMON L1, L2, RATIO
0004      P=DTANH(L1*PTA)-RATIO*DTANH(L2*PTA)
0005      RETURN
0006      END
```

\*OPTIONS IN EFFECT: NOOPT,IO,ENCOD,SOURCE,NOLIST,NOBACK,LOAD,NOHAP,NOTRY

\*OPTIONS IN EFFECT: NAME = P, LINECT = 56

\*STATISTICS: SOURCE STATEMENTS = 0, PROGRAM SIZE = 400

\*STATISTICS: NO DIAGNOSTICS OPERATED

\*STATISTICS: NO DIAGNOSTICS THIS STEP

14-588

4853486

TEMPERATURE = .233000+01		
INPUT	0.400000-01	
RATIO	0.000000+00	
W	0.300000+00	0.300000+00
W1	0.370000-01	0.410000-01
W2	0.130000-03	0.140000-03
W3	-0.011000+00	-0.210000+00
W4	-0.070000+01	-0.107000+01
B	0.110000+02	
P	0.400000-07	
ARG	0.140000+01	0.400000+01
GAN	0.300000-02	0.300000-02
GO	0.200000+00	0.307000+00
GM	0.400000-07	0.400000-07
ESTIMATED PARAMETERS		
K	0.707000-01	0.471710+00
PSIP	-0.001000+01	-0.277100+02
PSIGL	0.000000+00	0.047000-10
OSP	0.000000-03	0.304000+07