Methane Hydrate Formation Behavior in the Presence of Selected Amino Acids

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Methane Hydrate Formation Behavior in the Presence of Selected Amino Acids

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Introduction

What are Gas Hydrate?

- Ice-like, crystalline structures
- Common hydrate formers: methane, ethane, propane, carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, nitrogen, hydrogen

![Gas hydrate formation](image)

**Gas storage capacity in hydrates**

- $1 \text{ m}^3$ Hydrate $\rightarrow$ $\sim 164 \text{ m}^3$ Gas at STP $+ 0.9 \text{ m}^3$ Water

**Water cages**
Application of Gas Hydrate

Gas Hydrate

Natural Gas Hydrate
- Permafrost onshore
- Marine Sediments
  - Methane Production
  - Natural Gas Storage/Transport
- Gas Storage
- Gas Capture & Separation
  - CO₂/CH₄ Separation
  - CO₂ hydrate based
- Desalination
- Refrigeration
  - CO₂ hydrate based

Man Made Hydrate
- Flow Assurance in Oil & gas

Methane Hydrate Formation

Methane Hydrate Formation Behavior in the Presence of Selected Amino Acids
Chemicals For Gas Hydrates

- Accelerate hydrate formation
  - Thermodynamic Acceleration
  - Kinetic acceleration

- Delay hydrate formation
  - Thermodynamic delay
  - Kinetic Delay

Amino Acids?

Promoters
Inhibitors
Why Amino Acids?

### Available Chemicals
- Toxic
- By product of petroleum
- Create foam
- Expensive
- Large Quantity

### Amino Acids
- Environment Friendly
- Non Toxic, Bio degradable
- Non Expensive
- Non Expensive

Methane Hydrate Formation Behavior in the Presence of Selected Amino Acids
Objective

• Understand the kinetics of methane hydrate formation
  – In presence of Amino Acids

• Understand the role of Amino Acids
  – Promoter or Inhibitor

• Explain the mechanism
### Selected Amino Acid in this study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Side Chain polarity</th>
<th>Side Chain</th>
<th>Hydrophobicity/ Hydropathy Index (Kyte and Doolittle, 1982)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>L –valine</td>
<td>Non polar</td>
<td>-CH(CH₃)₂</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>L –methionine</td>
<td>Non polar</td>
<td>CH₃-S-(CH₂)₂</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>L –histidine</td>
<td>Basic polar, aromatic side chain</td>
<td>-CH₂C₃H₃N₂</td>
<td>-3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>L-arginine</td>
<td>Basic polar, aliphatic side chain</td>
<td>HN=C(NH₂)-NH(-CH₂)₃</td>
<td>-4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Experimental Setup

- Rocking Cell (PSL Germany)
  - Rocking Rate, Rocking Angle
  - Volume
  - Temperature Ramping, Constant Temperature

- A - Bathtub
- B - High Pressure Cell
- C - Rocking Balls
Temperature Scheme

Isothermal Experiment
(Fresh & Memory)

Induction Time \((t_o)\)  
Gas Uptake

\[
uptake = \frac{\Delta n_H^{\text{methane gas}}}{n_{\text{Sol}}}
\]
Methodology

P-T Curve at Constant Volume in Batch system

Gas consumption (Gas uptake) curve
Induction time (in mins) for given Amino acids at 1 °C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hydrophobic Amino Acid</th>
<th>Hydrophilic Amino Acid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L-arginine</td>
<td>L-valine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L-histidine</td>
<td>L-methionine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference Line L-valine

100 bar Fresh
70 bar Fresh

Induction time (in mins)
Normalized Gas Uptake (m-mol/m-mmol) for given Amino acids at 1 ° C

Hydrophilic Amino Acid

Hydrophobic Amino Acid

Reference Line L-arginine
Summary

• Hydrophobic amino acids, as promoter while hydrophilic amino acid as inhibitor
• Hydrophobic amino acids in gas hydrate promotion such as gas storage, capture etc
• Hydrophilic amino acids in flow assurance in Oil & Gas pipeline
• Amino acid shows memory effect in Induction time, kills memory effect in gas uptake.
• Increase in pressure create higher driving force, thus lower induction time and higher gas uptake
• L-methionine is best promoter while L histidine is best inhibitor.
Less hydrophobic amino acids disrupt hydrogen bonds between water molecules to inhibit hydrate formation while more hydrophobic amino acids strengthen the local organization of the water structure.

that
AT CERE

- Applied Thermodynamics
- Transport Processes and Properties
- Mathematical modeling
- Material science
- Petroleum Technology
- Enhanced Oil Recovery
- CO2 capture and gas hydrates
- Energy resources
- Biorefinery Conversions

Professor Georgios Kontogeorgis
Group Leader

Ass Professor Nicolas von Solms
Gas Hydrate Research
Thank You

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