Polymer Process Engineering Prof. Shishir Sinha Department of Chemical Engineering Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee Lecture – 25 Mass transfer phenomenon in polymers: Diffusivity and solubility of gases in polymers

Hello friends, welcome to the diffusivity and solubility of the gases in polymers under the edges of mass transfer phenomena in polymers. In the previous lecture, we discussed the mass transfer coefficient in the laminar flow. We discussed the mass transfer in the falling film and briefly described the laminar falling film in the inclined surface where the angle theta. We described the mass transfer coefficient in the turbulent flow. We discussed the boundary layer theory concept and the film theory concept. In this particular segment, we are going to discuss the diffusion aspects in polymers.



We will discuss the gas diffusivities in molten polymer. We will describe the gas solubility in the molten polymer with certain examples. Now, usually, we will go for different laws which we studied in previous chapters. So, when we talk about the diffusion and solution in the polymers, this is a very integral part of different types of aspects, especially when we try to synthesize the specialty polymers.



Molar flux J_A

$$J_A = -D_{AB} \frac{dC_A}{dy}$$

Now, in this aspect, Fick's first law gives the simplest representation of the molecular diffusion of a species in a system. Now, this expression relates the molar flux j A of species A to a gradient dCA over dy by means of a transport or diffusion coefficient dAB. So, this can be represented as j A, and this is the molar flux is equal to minus dAB dCA over dy where dAB is a property of the system in much of the same way, and the thermal conductivity is for the transfer of E. Now, diffusivity is the ratio of molar flux to concentration gradient and thermal conductivity is the ratio of the heat flux to temperature gradient. Now, for the diffusion of molecules into a liquid semi-solid or solid system, there is an important limiting case, which is the solution.

Diffusion and Solution in polymers					
 A third coefficient of some importance is the permeability, which is defined as the amount of a diffusing molecule that passes through a polymer film of unit thickness per second per unit area and a unit 					
 Diffusivity, solubility, and permeability are related by the following: 					
Where, D is diffusivity and H the Henry's law constant					
obtained from the relationship $H P_i = X_i$					
Where, Pi is the partial pressure of the diffusing					
component and X is the gas concentration in the polymer.					

The analogy to this particular situation is a chemical reaction, which is a kinetic process, and the chemical equilibrium ultimately limits that. So, all these things are very important in this particular aspect. Now, both the diffusivities and solubilities of small molecules are important in the polymer processing operation, and the rate of transport of small molecules within the polymer being processed, which is related to the diffusivity and solubility, can be fixed or can fix the retention of molecules in the system for a given temperature and pressure. A third coefficient is of some importance and is called the permeability, which is defined as the amount of a diffusing molecule that passes through a polymer film or a unit thickness per second per unit area and a unit difference of pressure. So, the diffusivity, solubility, and permeability are related by this particular equation that is P is equal to D into H where D is the diffusivity, and H is Henry's law constant.

Diffusion and Solution in polymers

- **Permeabilities** apply mainly to **molecular transport in solid polymers**, particularly **polymer films**.
- **Diffusivities** are usually obtained **in conjunction with permeability** measurements.
- The principal role of processing with respect to permeabilities and
- diffusivities in solid polymers is development of the material's structural characteristics.
- Mass transport of gaseous molecules in molten or thermally softened polymer systems is a particularly pertinent area. This is so because polymer processing operations generally involve gases diffusion systems.

This can be obtained from this particular relationship that is H Pi is equal to xi where Pi is the partial pressure of the diffusing component and x is the gas concentration in the polymer. Another thing is that this permeability applies mainly to the molecule transport in the solid polymer, particularly polymer films and diffusivities are usually obtained in conjunction with the permeability measurements. So, the principal role of processing with respect to the permeability and diffusivity in the solid polymer is usually developed by developed for the material structure characteristics and mass transport of gaseous molecule in molten or thermally softened polymer system is a particularly pertinent area and this is so because the polymer processing operation generally involve gases diffusive system.

	Diffusion an	d Solution in	nolymors		
 Measurement of solubilities and diffusivities have been accomplished by various techniques as shown in table. 					
Method	Used for diffusivity	Used for solubility			
Movement of a color boundary	Yes	Yes			
Gas chromatograph	Yes	No			
Piezoelectric	Yes	Yes			
Special diffusion cell	on Yes	Yes			
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Now, if we talk about the measurement of solubilities and diffusivities, they have been accomplished by the various techniques which we have represented over here like the methods, there are different methods for measurement like movement of a colour boundary, if we can use it for diffusivity as well as we can use for the solubilities and a gas chromatography we can use for the diffusivity but we cannot use for the solubility. Apart from this the piezoelectric which can be used for the both the purpose and special diffusion cells again it can utilise for the both diffusivity and solubility.

Now, usually when we talk about the gas diffusivity in the polymer system, there is some experimental demonstration. So, a listing of experimentally determined diffusivities for a variety of gases and a polymer is given in this particular table at a given temperature of 188 degrees Celsius. Here, these are the various gases that can be utilized in several times in with respect to the polymeric system and there are so many polymeric systems like polyethylene, polypropylene, and polystyrene. So, we have enlisted helium, argon, methane, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide, so all the diffusivities is given with respect to three different polymer matrix: polyethylene, polypropylene and polystyrene. Now, the diffusivities of the gas in polymers are related to a variety of parameters like temperature, pressure, the nature of gases, and the nature of the polymer.



The diffusivities can be related to temperature by an exponential function

$$H = H_0 \exp\left(\frac{-E_S}{RT}\right)$$

Where,

- E_d is the activation energy of diffusion (kcal/mole).
- **D**₀ is the **pre-exponential function** (an empirical constant; its units are cm²/s)

Now, in order to deal properly with the processing operation, it is necessary to be able to take these parameters into account which means that correlations are needed because some of things are needed you can measure directly and some of thing you need to have some correlations so that we can establish the complete profile.

Gas diffusivities in polymer systems					
• Experimentally determined values of E_d and D_0 are given in Table below:					
Polymer	Gas (Ed (kcal/mol)	D ₀ x10 ⁵ cm ² /s	Temp (°C)	
Polyethylene	N ₂	2.0	53.414	125-188	
	CO ₂	4.4	688.13	188-224	
Polypropylene	CO ₂	3.0	111.76	188-224	
Polystyrene	H ₂	10.1	218.06	120-188	
	N_2	9.6	21.11	119-188	
	CH_4	3.6	21.24	125-188	
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So, diffusivities this can be related to the temperature by an exponential function and that is equal to D is equal to D naught exponential minus E d over R T where Ed is the activation energy of a diffusion which is usually represented in kilo calorie per mole and D naught is the pre-exponential function. This is an empirical constant and is having the units of centimetre square per second. So, if we take the things into consideration then experimentally determined values of E d and D naught is given in this particular table for the different polymer matrix like polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene and we used different gases like nitrogen, carbon dioxide, carbon dioxide with respect to the polypropylene and then polystyrene, hydrogen, nitrogen, methane all these things. So, E d in kilo calorie per mole and D naught and at a given temperature because temperature plays a very vital role.



Now, if we talk about the various values of Ed and D naught this can be estimated for other gases too and polymers by using these two figures. This is the logarithmic of the D naught versus activation

energy divided by gas constant and this is the logarithmic of D naught versus activation energy divided by the gas constant. So, all these things can be utilised. Now, in this particular figure, figure 1 the logarithmic of D naught is plotted against E d over R and this particular plot, this gives the plot of E d versus the function of polymers gas temperature and epsilon over k a gas molecule parameter. Now, in order to use the data of these two figures, figure 1 and figure 2, first establish the E d value from this figure number 2 for a given polymer by using the polymers glass transition temperature and epsilon over k for the gas next to obtain the D naught value from this figure number 1.

Cas diffusivities in polymon systems					
Gas diffusivities in polymer systems					
• The polymer's glass temperature and ε/k for the gas is used from the table					
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Gas (Collision	diameter, σ (Aº)	€/k, K		
H_2	2.915	A	380)	
He	2.576		10.2		
N ₂	3.681		91.5		
CO	3.590	M	110		
CO ₂	3.996		190	9	
CH_4	3.822		137		
C_2H_4	4.232		205		
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So, the polymeric the glass transition temperature and epsilon over k for the gas is used from the table like we have enlisted different gases like hydrogen, helium, nitrogen, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, methane, all these gases and then a collision diameter which is given in the angstrom which is given and epsilon over k in Kelvin is also given. Now, the smaller the molecule, the larger the diffusivity. This becomes apparent when a parameter that is the logarithmic of the diffusivity divided by the square of the diameter of the gas molecule. Now, the diffusivity decreases with increasing polymer weight which is evident from the correlation and the plot this is developed by Lindberg in 1969. So, in this particular figure, we have represented the diffusivities of the gases versus polymer weight.



Now, if we talk if we go for the explanation of this particular figure, the chain flexibility is not an appropriate explanation as the glass transition temperature of the polyisobutylene lies between the polyethylene and polypropylene. At the same time, the correct correlation shows that polyisobutylene diffusivity data is lower than either of the two other polymers. Now, diffusivity is to be related directly to the mobility of the diffusing species, and the material could be arranged in order to increase in consistency or decrease in diffusing species mobility as polyethylene, polypropylene, polyisobutylene, and polyacetylene. Now, the relation in this particular figure indicates between the diffusivity and polymer weight which is actually between the diffusivity and the mobility of the diffusing species. These polymers differ structurally in the pendant group attached to the basic polyethylene chain.

Gas diffusivities in polymer systems

• The relation indicated in Fig. 3 between **diffusivity and mer weight** is actually **between the diffusivity and mobility of the diffusing species** since these **polymers differ structurally** in the pendant groups attached to the basic polyethylene chain.

There are actually two relations between the diffusion coefficient and the reciprocal of the absolute temperature. One of the relations holds up to 150°C, and the second from 150 to 170°C.

Now, there are actually two relations between the diffusion coefficient and the reciprocal of absolute temperature. One is one of the relations that holds up to, say, 150 degrees Celsius, and the second is

in between 150 to 170 degrees Celsius. So, the resultant correlation involves the two complex equations with the diffusivity equation. In order to use the correlation, it is necessary to know the polymer density, the data as a function of temperature, the density data for the pure solvent as a function of temperature, several values of the polymer-solvent system diffusivity for at least two temperatures, sorption equilibrium data for the polymer-solvent system, rheological flow data for the polymer and solvent viscosity data. So, all these things are quite essential.



Now, usually if we number them 1 to 6 these are then used to calculate the number of quantities such as solvent free volume parameters, a polymer free volume parameter and a molar volume at 0 Kelvin for the polymer and solvent. Now, these quantities are then used with the three continuity equations as to calculate the diffusivity. Now, this method this has been applied not to the semi crystalline molten polymer like polyethylene, but rather to amorphous polymers too like polystyrene and poly methyl methacrylate and then that which are the thermally soft. It appears that the simpler generalized technique they are adequate for the higher temperature range for both polystyrene and polyvinyl acetate PVA. Now, above say 420 Kelvin for polystyrene and 358 Kelvin for polyvinyl acetate.

Now, these temperatures are respectively 1.1 and 1.2 times the polymer glass transition temperatures. Now, it is therefore suggested that the free volume model to be used in the region from the glass transition temperature up to 1.1 to 1.2 times of its value.



Let us solve one problem and that is what are the diffusivities at 220 degrees Celsius for the following system like methane, polyethylene, nitrogen, polypropylene, krypton, polyisobutylene. Now, given that D naught is equal to 2.2 into 10 to the power minus 5 centimeter square per second, ED that is for the polyethylene is equal to minus 3 kilo calorie per mole, ED for polypropylene 2.78 kilo calorie per mole and polyisobutylene given as 5.4 kilo calorie per mole. So, putting these values in equation which is D is equal to D naught in equation which is D is equal to D naught is equal to 2.2 into 10 to the power minus 5 centimeter square per second and the ED values for polyethylene 3 kilo calorie per mole and polyethylene 4.78 kilo calorie per mole and polyethylene 3 kilo calorie per mole and polyethylene 3 kilo calorie per mole and polyethylene 4.78 kilo calorie per mole and polyethylene 3 kilo calorie per mole and polyethylene 4.78 kilo calorie per mole ED for polypropylene 2.78 kilo calorie per mole and ED for polyisobutylene which is equal to 5.4 kilo calorie per mole and ED for polyisobutylene which is equal to 5.4 kilo calorie per mole and ED for polyisobutylene which is equal to 5.4 kilo calorie per mole and ED for polyisobutylene which is equal to 5.4 kilo calorie per mole and ED for polyisobutylene which is equal to 5.4 kilo calorie per mole and T is given as 220 degrees Celsius that is 4.2 into 10 to the power 493.16 Kelvin and R is equal to 1.987 into 10 to the power minus 3 kilo calorie per mole Kelvin. See the consistency of the unit. Now, if we solve separately then for the first system methane polyethylene the D is equal to 2.2

into 10 to the power minus 5 centimeter square per second into 3 into per 3 kilo calorie per mole over 1.987 into 10 to the power minus 3 mole into 493 kilo calorie per mole.



So, 5.993.16 Kelvin. Now, this comes out to be D is equal to 6.7 into 10 to the power 5 centimeter square per second and this is answer for the first segment. Now, if we talk about nitrogen and polypropylene D is equal to 2.2 into 10 to the power minus 5 centimeter square 2.78, 1.987 into 10 to the power minus 3 into 493.16 Kelvin. So, So, this comes out to be D is equal to 4.275 into 10 to the power 5 centimetre square per second. This is answer to the second segment. Now, let's talk about the Krypton poly isopropyl alcohol. This is our third segment that is Krypton poly isobutylene that is D is equal to 2.2 into 10 to the power minus 5 into cm2 per second into 5.4 kilo calorie per mole, 1.987 into 10 to the power 5 centimeter square per second. This is our third segment that is 0 is equal to 2.2 into 10 to the power minus 5 into cm2 per second into 5.4 kilo calorie per mole, 1.987 into 10 to the power minus 3-kilo calorie per mole Kelvin into 493.16 and then D comes out to be 10.69 into 10 to the power 5 centimeter square per second. This is our answer.



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Now, let us take up another problem that is you need to estimate a value of diffusivity for the system carbon dioxide polyvinyl chloride at 200 degrees Celsius that is 473.16 Kelvin. Now, it is given that ED for the polyvinyl chloride is 2.84 kilo calorie per mole and D naught at 461.16 is equal to 2.2 into 10 to the power minus 5 centimeter square per second. So, let us solve this problem. Now, we we can establish the equation D at 473.16 Kelvin is equal to D 461.16 Kelvin, then exponential ED over R 461.16 Kelvin over minus ED over R 473.16 Kelvin. So, this this equation can be written as D 473.16 Kelvin is equal to 2.2 into 10 to the power minus 461.16 over 473.16 into 461.16. So, if we solve then it can become D 473.16 Kelvin is equal to 2.38 into 10 to the power minus 5 centimeters, and this is our answer. Now, let us talk about the limiting effect. Now, the limiting effect of the diffusion of a gas into a molten or thermally softened polymer is its solution.



Such behavior can be expressed in the form of Henry's law. Now, experimentally determined the values of H the Henry's laws constant are given in this particular table. This table shows the Henry law constant for various gas polymer systems and usual units of Henry law constant is centimeter cube per gram atom.

Gas solubilities in polymer systems					
Table shows henry's law constants for various gas-polymer systems . Henry's Law Constant: cm³/g atm					
Polymer	Nitrogen	Carbon dioxide	Argon	Helium	/
Polyethylene	0.111	0.275	0.113	0.038	
Polypropylene	0.133	0.228	0.176	0.086	\bigvee
Polyisobutylene	0.057	0.210	0.102	0.043	
Polystyrene	0.049	0.220	0.093	0.029	
Polymethyl methacrylate	0.045	0.260	0.105	0.066	
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Now, here in this particular segment you see that we have enlisted different polymers like polyethylene, polypropylene, polyisobutylene, polystyrene, polymethyl methacrylate and then the different gases like nitrogen, carbon dioxide, argon, helium all these things are enlisted and their respective Henry's law constant is being given in this particular table. Now, as with the diffusion the solution is a function of a number of parameters including temperature, pressure and the nature of gases and the polymer involved.

Gas solubilities in polymer systems

• As with diffusion, solution is a function of a number of parameters, including temperature, pressure, and the nature of the gases and polymers involved.

• The relation of the Henry's law constant to temperature is an exponential one, represented by:

$$H = H_0 \exp\left(\frac{-E_s}{RT}\right)$$

where E_s is the heat of solution in kcal/ mole.

Relation of Henry's Las Constant

$$H = H_0 \exp\left(\frac{-E_S}{RT}\right)$$

So, the relation of Henry's law constant to a temperature is an exponential expression which is represented by H is equal to H naught exponential of minus ES over RT where ES is the heat of a solution and which is having the units of a kilo calorie per mole.



So, various experimental values being determined by the different scientists and these some of the experimental values which are in use in the common polymers is given as polyethylene, polypropylene and polystyrene with respect to the different gases like hydrogen, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, methane all these things. Now, it is evident from this particular table that the heat of a solution changes with the gas structure for a given polymer. Now, these phenomena usually was observed in a solid amorphous polyethylene and natural rubber where the heats of solution move from endothermic to exothermic as the gas collision diameter increases. Now, in this particular figure, this demonstrate or compares the data for the molten polyethylene to data for solid amorphous polyethylene.



Now, the dotted lines this one, this can be used to estimate the heats of solution for gases other than the nitrogen or carbon dioxide in the polyethylene. References in this particular literature we have already included this that Henry law constant is independent of pressure up to at least 1.01 into 10 to the power 7 Pascal and possibly up to 3.03 into 10 to the power 7 Pascal. So, in this particular figure, where you see that heats of solution of a gas in the solid amorphous that is a solid lines with circle and polyethylene for a molten polyethylene that is a dotted line and we have represented the notation in triangle.





Now, let us take up another problem that is you need to calculate the Henry's law constant for nitrogen, helium, argon, carbon dioxide in solid amorphous polyethylene at 461.16 Kelvin. Here the H naught nitrogen is given as Henry's law initial energy law constant is given for nitrogen, helium, argon and carbon dioxide like 0.03512.0102.878 centimetres centimetre cube per gram atmosphere and 3.384 centimetre cube per gram atmosphere. Apart from this the ES values is given for nitrogen, helium, argon, carbon dioxide like this. So, we are having the equation with us like H is equal to H naught exponential minus ES over RT.

Now, here R is equal to 1.987 into 10 to the power minus 3 kilo calorie per mole Kelvin, H naught for nitrogen is given that is 0.0351 centimetre cube per gram atom, ES for nitrogen is given that is 950 kilo calorie per mole, H naught for helium is 0.0102 centimetre cube per gram atmosphere, ES for helium 2300 kilo calorie per mole, H naught for argon 0.0878 centimetre cube, ES for argon 500 kilo calorie per mole, H naught for CO2 0.384 centimetre cube per atom and ES for CO2 is equal to 800 kilo calorie per mole.

a/rd+) (4(1. 16K-For 1.- (cm 3/gdm) H= 0.0102 (cm 3/gdm) N= 0.0619 cm2/9/2 H= 0.415 11= 0.0878 6 NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSE iit roorkee

So, for nitrogen, H is equal to 0.0351 centimetre cube plus atom 950 kilo calorie per mole, 1.987 into 10 to the power minus 3 kilo calorie per mole Kelvin, 461.16 Kelvin. Now, this H is equal to 0.043 centimetre cube per gram atom. This is the answer to the first segment. For helium, H is equal to 0.0102 centimetre cube per gram, 2300, 1.987 into 10 to the power minus 3 kilo calorie, 461.16 Kelvin. So, if we calculate then it comes out to be H is equal to 0.0619 centimetre cube per gram atom. So, this is our answer. Now, if we take for A, then H is equal to 0.0878 into 500 over 1.987 into 461.16. All other things are in the usual units. So, H is comes out to be 0.118 centimetre cube per gram atom. This is our answer. Now, if we talk about the carbon dioxide, so, this is H is equal to 0.348 centimetre cube per gram atom. This is our answer. Now, if we calculate 0.1987 into 10 to the power minus 3 kilo calorie per mole Kelvin.

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So, this is our answer to this particular segment. Dear friends, in this particular segment, we discussed different aspects of mass transfer operation and for your convenience, we have enlisted different references and which are very useful for the future studies and if you wish, you can take the help of all these references. Thank you very much.