

The 7th International Conference on Chemical kinetics July 10-14, 2011 MIT, Cambridge (USA)



MINOR PRODUCTS ANALYSIS DURING THE LOW-TEMPARATURE OXIDATION OF ALKANES

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Mechanism usuallly proposed for the gas-phase oxidation of alkanes



Experimental evidences of the formation of hydroperoxides during autoignition

Links between the concentration of hydroperoxides and the appearance of cool flame shown using iodometric method, but the structure of the involved species could not be determined by this way (Burgess and Laughlin, 1967)

> Ketohydroperoxides detected after trapping at the outlet of a CFR engine

> > (experiments never repeated) and of a flow reactor

(very low temperatures (498-518 K) and with very large excess in oxygen (oxygen/hydrocarbon ratio was 1176 while the stoichiometric ratio for a complete combustion is 18.5) (Sahetchian et al., 1991-2001)



need to minimize possible reactions between their formation and their detection.



Use a molecular beam



Molecular beam



Hydroperoxides formed in very low amounts amongst a large number of other oxidation products :

use of a high sensitivity mass spectrometer with a very low ionization energy to avoid the fragmentation



Time-of-flight mass spectrometer combined with tunable vacuum ultraviolet synchrotron (SVUV) photoionization





Spherical quartz jet-stirred reactor (JSR)

Molecular beam

TOF-MS with SVUV photoionization



Recent applications of mass spectrometry with SVUV photoionisation





C.A.Taatjes, N. Hansen, A. McIlroy, J.A .Miller, J.P. Senosiain, S.J. Klippenstein, F. Qi, L. Sheng, Y. Zhang, T.A. Cool, J. Wang, P.R. Westmoreland, M.E. Law, T. Kasper, K. Kohse-Hoïnghaus, Chemistry: Enols are common intermediates in hydrocarbon oxidation Science, 308, 1887 (2005). Coupling of a mass spectrometer combined with tunable synchrotron vacuum ultraviolet photoionization to a JSR through a molecularbeam sampling system

Isotherm quartz jet-stirred reactor at atmospheric pressure (JSR)





The coupling through a molecular-beam sampling system between a JSR and a mass spectrometer combined with tunable synchrotron vacuum ultraviolet photoionization made in Hefei







The cone, with the reactor and its heating system has been connected to the MS chamber

A cone, the tip of which is pierced with a 75 μ m hole has been inserted in the reactor (made in France)

Conversion of *n*-butane

P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, , 4% *n*-butane (3.1 % for a stoichiometric n-butane/air mixture)

In Hefei: Quantification by assuming no reaction below 580K

In Nancy: on-line gas chromatographic analysis of outlet gas

Simulation: Using a model generated using EXGAS software



> **Main combustion products** P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, , 4% *n*-butane

$$\frac{S_{i}(T)}{S_{ref}(T)} = \frac{X_{i}(T)}{X_{ref}(T)} \cdot \frac{\sigma_{i}(T)}{\sigma_{ref}(T)} \cdot \frac{D_{i}(T)}{D_{ref}(T)}$$

Reference is argon (16.2 eV)



> **Main combustion products** P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, , 4% *n*-butane



For the measurements made in Hefei, reference is ethylene (11 eV) and butene (10 eV) measured at 650 K in Nancy

Not usually considered in models

Light oxygenated products P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, , 4% *n*-butane



Reference is ethylene (11 eV) and butene (10 eV)

Hydrogen peroxide P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, , 4% *n*-butane



PIE (10.65 eV) in good agreement with literature Reference is ethylene (11 eV), σ is estimated

Herbinet et al., PCCP, 2011.

> Main C₄ products P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, 4% *n*-butane

Butenes

Oxygenated compounds



Reference is butene (10 eV, 650 K), σ_i of oxygenated compounds taken equal to that of tetrahydrofurane

> **Details of C₄H₈O products** P = 1 bar, $\Phi = 1$, $\tau = 6$ s, 4% *n*-butane (GC Nancy)



> **Obtained mass spectrum** P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, 4% *n*-butane, 590 K, 10 eV



> **Ionization energy (IE) measurements** P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, 4% *n*-butane, 590 K



Zero-point energy corrected adiabatic IEs have been calculated from the CBS-QB3 method using Gaussian03.

> **Evolution of hydroperoxides signal with temperature** P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, 4% *n*-butane, 10 eV

Experimental

Simulation





Battin-Leclerc et al., Angewante Chemie Int. Ed., 2010.

Quantification of C⁴ hydroperoxides

P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, 4% *n*-butane

Ketohydroperoxides



Reference is butene (10 eV, 650 K), σ_i taken equal to that of tetrahydrofurane

Other peaks on the obtained mass spectrum P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, 4% *n*-butane, 590 K, 10 eV



Battin-Leclerc et al., Proc. Combust. Inst., 2011.

Possible ways of formation of C₄ dioxygenated compounds



> Quantification of C_4 dioxygenated compounds P = 1 bar, $\Phi = 1$, $\tau = 6$ s, 4% *n*-butane

> > Hydroxybutanone



Reference is butene (10 eV, 650 K), σ_i taken equal to that of tetrahydrofurane

Minor peaks on the obtained mass spectrum P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, 4% *n*-butane, 630 K, 10 eV





M = 102 is mainly:



3rd addition on oxygen ?

Selectivity of products at 590 K (13% conversion)

P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, 4% *n*-butane

15%



> **Conversion of** *n***-heptane** P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 2 s, 0.5% *n*-heptane

In Hefei: Quantification by assuming no reaction below 580K

In Nancy: on-line gas chromatographic analysis of outlet gas

Simulation: Using a model generated using EXGAS software



> **Light oxygenated products** P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 2 s, 0.5% *n*-heptane



Obtained mass spectrum

P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 2 s, 0.5% *n*-heptane, 530 K, 9.5 eV



No hydroperoxide smaller than ketohydroperoxides

Study of the low-temperature oxidation of n-heptane in a jet-stirred reactor

Analysis of diones and hydroperoxides



Are diones seen in Nancy partly due to ketohydroperoxides decomposed in GC?

700

Hefei signal (mass 128)

50

40

30

20

10

Ο

Diones (Mass = 128, good PIE)

> **Conversion of** *propane* P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, 12% *propane*

In Hefei: Quantification by assuming no reaction below 580K

In Nancy: on-line gas chromatographic analysis of outlet gas



Obtained mass spectrum P = 1 bar, Φ = 1, τ = 6 s, 12% *propane*, 635 K, 11 eV



No hydroperoxide other than propylhydroperoxides

Conclusion

Use of a new type of apparatus coupling through a molecular beam a jet stirred reactor and a tunable synchrotron vacuum ultraviolet photoionization mass spectrometer

Evidence of the formation of hydroperoxides compounds, especially ketohydroperoxides during the low-temperature oxidation of n-butane and n-heptane: mainly 2,4 and 3,5-ketohydroperoxides formed from n-heptane

Evidence of the formation of products deriving from ketohydroperoxides: diones

Next work

Study of the low-temperature oxidation of a series of branched alkanes to better understand the influence of the structure of the molecule on the formation of hydroperoxide compounds



Thank you for your attention