

# **The Oxidation And Precipitation Of Iron From A Manganese Sulphate Solution**

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## **Declaration**

I, the undersigned, Germaine Darko, do hereby declare that the contents of this dissertation are solely my work except where specific acknowledgement is made. This dissertation has not been submitted for a degree at any other university or institution.

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Germaine Darko

## **ABSTRACT**

In many metallurgical processes such as the production of zinc, copper, manganese, nickel and cobalt, the mineral ore usually has metallic impurities, of which iron is the most common. Separating the iron from the mineral of interest is a common problem in these processes. In this dissertation, the oxidation of ferrous sulphate in the presence of manganese was studied in a stirred batch reactor operating at atmospheric pressure. Molecular oxygen and air were used as oxidants.

Systematic kinetic experiments were carried out at initial ferrous concentration and temperature ranges of 5 – 20 g/l and 55 – 85 °C respectively. The results revealed that iron could be selectively precipitated out from manganese sulphate solution. Analysis of the solids showed that iron is separated out in form of goethite precipitate ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ). Although this compound seemed to be the most dominant species in the solids, small amounts of sulphate and manganese contaminants were also evident.

The experimental data were fitted to a rate equation and found to be fractional order with respect to the ferrous concentration and first order with respect to the oxygen partial pressure. The rate equation was similar to that proposed by Rönholm *et al* (1999) based on a non-catalytic mechanism of the oxidation of ferrous sulphate. The model fitted the experimental data reasonably well.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|            |                                                                          |           |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>INTRODUCTION AND LITERATURE SURVEY.....</b>                           | <b>1</b>  |
| 1.1        | STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.....                                            | 1         |
| 1.2        | IRON REMOVAL FROM A SULPHATE SOLUTION.....                               | 2         |
| 1.2.1      | <i>Iron Problem in Hydrometallurgical Manganese Circuits .....</i>       | <i>3</i>  |
| 1.2.2      | <i>eH – pH diagrams.....</i>                                             | <i>4</i>  |
| 1.2.3      | <i>Separation of iron in a form of goethite precipitate.....</i>         | <i>8</i>  |
| 1.3        | OXIDATION OF FERROUS IONS BY DISSOLVED OXYGEN.....                       | 9         |
| 1.3.1      | <i>Reaction Mechanisms of Fe<sup>2+</sup> oxidation with oxygen.....</i> | <i>12</i> |
| 1.4        | THEORY ON KINETICS OF IRON OXIDATION .....                               | 15        |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>EXPERIMENTAL .....</b>                                                | <b>19</b> |
| 2.1        | EXPERIMENTAL SET-UP.....                                                 | 21        |
| 2.2        | EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE.....                                              | 22        |
| 2.3        | FILTRATION SYSTEM.....                                                   | 24        |
| 2.4        | PRELIMINARY RESULTS .....                                                | 25        |
| 2.5        | EXPERIMENTS CONDUCTED .....                                              | 25        |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS.....</b>                                      | <b>26</b> |
| 3.1        | CONFIRMATION THAT MASS TRANSFER EFFECTS CAN BE NEGLECTED..               | 26        |
| 3.2        | REPRODUCIBILITY OF EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS.....                             | 28        |
| 3.3        | DETERMINATION OF SOLIDS COMPOSITION .....                                | 29        |
| 3.3.1      | <i>Solution Phase Analysis .....</i>                                     | <i>29</i> |
| 3.3.2      | <i>Solid Phase Analysis .....</i>                                        | <i>30</i> |
| 3.3.3      | <i>TGA Analysis of the solids.....</i>                                   | <i>33</i> |
| 3.3.4      | <i>XRD Analysis of the solids.....</i>                                   | <i>35</i> |
| 3.4        | EFFECT OF PARAMETERS ON OXIDATION RATE.....                              | 36        |
| 3.4.1      | <i>Effect of Initial ferrous concentration.....</i>                      | <i>36</i> |
| 3.4.2      | <i>Effect of oxidant type .....</i>                                      | <i>37</i> |
| 3.4.3      | <i>Effect of temperature.....</i>                                        | <i>37</i> |
| 3.4.4      | <i>Effect of pH.....</i>                                                 | <i>38</i> |
| 3.4.5      | <i>eH-pH diagram.....</i>                                                | <i>40</i> |
| 3.4.6      | <i>Kinetic variables considered for modelling .....</i>                  | <i>43</i> |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>MODELLING OF EXPERIMENTAL DATA.....</b>                               | <b>45</b> |
| 4.1        | EMPIRICAL MODEL OF RATE EQUATION .....                                   | 45        |
| 4.2        | MECHANISTIC MODELLING OF THE REACTION RATE .....                         | 48        |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>CONCLUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>                            | <b>57</b> |
|            | <b>NOMENCLATURE.....</b>                                                 | <b>59</b> |

|                                                                |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>REFERENCES .....</b>                                        | <b>61</b> |
| <b>APPENDICES.....</b>                                         | <b>65</b> |
| APPENDIX A1: ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROMETRY (AAS) .....        | 65        |
| <i>Principles of AAS</i> .....                                 | 65        |
| <i>Relationship between Absorption and Concentration</i> ..... | 66        |
| <i>Analytical Curve Technique</i> .....                        | 68        |
| <i>Interferences</i> .....                                     | 70        |
| <i>Analytical Analysis of Samples</i> .....                    | 71        |
| APPENDIX A2: CONSTRUCTION OF POURBAIX DIAGRAMS.....            | 73        |
| APPENDIX A3: RATE CURVES .....                                 | 77        |
| APPENDIX A4: GRAVIMETRIC ANALYSIS OF SULPHATES AS BARIUM ..... | 79        |
| SULPHATE .....                                                 | 79        |
| <i>Experimental Procedure</i> .....                            | 79        |
| <i>Calculations</i> .....                                      | 80        |
| APPENDIX A5: DERIVATION OF MECHANISTIC RATE EQUATION .....     | 82        |
| APPENDIX A6: MORE ON FITTED DATA .....                         | 85        |
| APPENDIX A7: PROGRAM FOR NON-LINEAR REGRESSION MODELLING ..... | 88        |

## LIST OF FIGURES

### *Section 1*

|            |                                                                |    |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Figure 1.1 | $E_h$ - pH diagram of Fe - H <sub>2</sub> O system at 298K     | 5  |
| Figure 1.2 | $E_h$ - pH diagram of Mn - H <sub>2</sub> O system at 298K     | 6  |
| Figure 1.3 | $E_h$ - pH diagram of Fe -Mn - H <sub>2</sub> O system at 298K | 7  |
| Figure 1.4 | Mass Transfer Of Oxygen Based On The "Stagnant Film" Model     | 16 |

### *Section 2*

|            |                                     |    |
|------------|-------------------------------------|----|
| Figure 2.1 | Calibration Curve For Air Rotameter | 20 |
| Figure 2.2 | Temperature Control Set-up          | 21 |
| Figure 2.3 | Experimental Set-up                 | 23 |
| Figure 2.4 | Filtration System Set-up            | 24 |

### *Section 3*

|             |                                                                |    |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Figure 3.1  | Effect of Flowrate on Oxidation Rate                           | 26 |
| Figure 3.2  | Effect of Stirrer Speed on Oxidation Rate                      | 27 |
| Figure 3.3  | Reproducibility Of Experimental Runs                           | 28 |
| Figure 3.4  | Evidence Of Selective Precipitation Of The Iron From Manganese | 29 |
| Figure 3.5  | TGA Analysis Of The Solid Sample                               | 34 |
| Figure 3.6  | XRD Analysis Of The Solid Sample                               | 35 |
| Figure 3.7  | Effect Of Starting [Fe (II)] On The Oxidation Reaction         | 36 |
| Figure 3.8  | Effect Of Different Oxidant On The Oxidation Reaction          | 37 |
| Figure 3.9  | Effect Of Temperature On The Oxidation Reaction                | 38 |
| Figure 3.10 | Effect Of Starting pH On The Oxidation Rate                    | 39 |
| Figure 3.11 | The Release of [H <sup>+</sup> ] in Oxidation Reaction         | 40 |
| Figure 3.12 | eH-pH Diagram of Reaction Solution                             | 41 |

|             |                                                  |    |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|----|
| Figure 3.13 | Ferric to Ferrous species in solution            | 43 |
| Figure 3.14 | Least Squares fits to experimental initial rates | 44 |

#### **Section 4**

|            |                                                                                            |    |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Figure 4.1 | Least Squares fits to experimental initial rates                                           | 47 |
| Figure 4.2 | Estimation of Activation Energy from the Model<br>presented by Rönholm <i>et al</i> (1999) | 50 |
| Figure 4.3 | Arrhenius Plot For Rönholm <i>et al</i> (1999) Model                                       | 51 |
| Figure 4.4 | Effect Of $\alpha$ -Parameter On SSE                                                       | 52 |
| Figure 4.5 | Effect Of $\beta$ -Parameter On SSE                                                        | 53 |
| Figure 4.6 | Predicted Ferrous Concentrations vs. Experimental                                          | 54 |
| Figure 4.7 | Histogram of normal distribution of the residuals                                          | 55 |
| Figure 4.8 | Comparison Of Model With Experimental Data                                                 | 56 |

## LIST OF TABLES

### ***Section 1***

|           |                                                                           |    |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Table 1.1 | Industrial Processes For Iron Removal                                     | 3  |
| Table 1.2 | Thermodynamic Data Of Species Involved<br>in Fe - H <sub>2</sub> O system | 5  |
| Table 1.3 | Values of K <sub>i</sub> for [O <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>sat</sub> estimation  | 18 |

### ***Section 3***

|           |                                                               |    |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Table 3.1 | Solids Analyses                                               | 31 |
| Table 3.2 | Theoretical contents of species present in solid precipitates | 32 |

### ***Section 4***

|           |                                                             |    |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Table 4.1 | Estimated Parameters from Rönholm <i>et al</i> (1999) model | 53 |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|