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To cite this version:

Carine Julcour-Lebigue, Jean-François Blanco, Laurie Barthe, Henri Delmas, Rinaldo Poli, et al.. Mass transfer assessment and kinetic investigation of biphasic catalytic systems. Congrès national de la Société Chimique de France, Jul 2018, Montpellier, France. 2018. hal-04354189

HAL Id: hal-04354189 <https://hal.science/hal-04354189>

Submitted on 19 Dec 2023

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Julcour-L[e](http://www.idref.fr/098033476)bigue, Carine and Blanco, Jean-Françoi[s](http://www.idref.fr/183106253)¹ and Barthe, Lauri[e](http://www.idref.fr/124847412) and Delmas, Henr[i](http://www.idref.fr/073314226) and Poli, Rinaldo and Manoury, Eric and Gayet, Florence and D'Agosto, Franck and Lansalot, Muriel and Deshpande, Raj M. and Kelkar, Ashutosh A. *Mass transfer assessment and kinetic investigation of biphasic catalytic systems.* (2018) In: Congrès national de la Société Chimique de France, 2 July 2018 - 4 July 2018 (Montpellier, France).

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MASS TRANSFER ASSESSMENT AND KINETIC INVESTIGATION OF BIPHASIC CATALYTIC SYSTEMS

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Homogeneous catalysis:

 \odot high efficiency and selectivity towards desired product

 \odot separation of the catalyst

Biphasic catalysis: confinement of the molecular catalyst in a solvent immiscible with the products (ex: water)

Industrial process: Ruhrchemie/Rhône Poulenc oxo process for the hydroformylation of propene into n-butanal, using **aqueous phase** and **hydrosoluble ligand** (TPPTS) – 800 000 tons aldehyde/year [Obrecht et al., 2013], Rh loss < 1 ppb

Pb: not applicable to higher olefins (> C4)!

Strategies for biphasic catalysis: for biphasic catalysis:

- **Water with additives New solvents**
- * *co-solvent in water * fluorous solvents* * *co-solvent in watersolvents*
- * *ligand modification* \rightarrow interfacial catalysis *interfaction* * *ionic liquids*
- * phase transfer agents * scCO_{2}
- ** thermomorphic systems * thermomorphic*
- * *surfactants or amphiphilic polymers* * *surfactants or amphiphilic*
- \rightarrow micellar(-like) catalysis

Main limitations: mass transfer, low reaction rate, and/or metal leaching **2006** 2 SFC Congress 2-4 July 2018

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Cnrs

Objectives & strategy

to reach a kinetic formulation including phase equilibria, to characterize interfacial mass transfer effects OBJECTIVES:

HOW: Thermodynamic study Mass transfer & kinetic study

Concentration of the substrates in the vicinity of the catalyst? Effect of products / µenvironment?

Relevant intrinsic rate laws (derived from reaction mechanism)?

Mass transfer performance? Coupling of reaction & transfer ?

APPLICATION: Rh-catalyzed hydroformylation of oct-1-ene

Ex.1: Ionic liquid biphasic catalysis

 $[BuPy][BF_4]$ /heptane system

PREVIOUS STUDIES **(hydroformylation, 2004):**

- High activity & selectivity: TOF > 1000 h -1 (100ºC), l/b ratio > 40, rather low metal (Rh) loss (<0.1 %) [Chauvin et al. (1996), Bronger et al. (2004)] - **Most of the studies dedicated to screening of ILs & ligands**

QUESTIONS:

- Thermodynamic *vs.* chemical effects?
- Relevant kinetic model?
- Viscosity effects on gas-liquid mass transfer?
- Coupling of reaction & transfer?

Thermodynamic study

IL biphasic catalysis

Gas solubility in IL

Large discrepancies in the literature (by up to a factor 3)

 \triangleright Dynamic gas absorption measurements in the reactor (ΔP_{reac})

Solubility of H² and CO in [Bmim][PF⁶]: data within the range of reported values (<20% dev. with Monte Carlo calculations [Urukova et al. (2005)]) (Hsolv,H2 = [-0.6, 3] kJ.mol-1 ; Hsolv,CO = -3.8 kJ.mol-1) 3 times lower than in decane, but 2 times higher than in water

Similar, but slightly higher gas solubility in [BuPy][BF⁴]

Thermodynamic study

IL biphasic catalysis

Iniection head

Hole for venting Glass vial

Solubility & partition coef. of olefin (& aldehyde) in IL

Very few values available

Routine chromatography or spectroscopy methods not suitable

- L-L equilibria measured at **reaction T**
- \triangleright with the help of **Multiple HeadSpace** Gas Chromatography (IL φ)
- \triangleright validation of solubility data by **thermogravimetry** (IL φ)

Solubility of octene in [Bmim][PF⁶] (g / g): 2000 with respect to water (25ºC) Much higher solubility of n-nonanal Lower values in [BuPy][BF⁴]

CINTS

 $\sum A_i = \frac{A_1}{1 - e^{k}}$

Kinetic study

Experimental study

- instantaneous syngas consumption from $\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{ballast}}\left(\mathsf{R}_{0}\right)$
- speciation in organic φ by GC/FID (M balance, I/b ratio)

Typical time-concentration profile in solution ([Bmim][PF₆]/decane with TPPTS)

High isomerization of oct-1-ene \rightarrow I/b ratio between 0.7 and 3 TOF: 15-75 h-1 after 1h (60-80ºC)

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Parametric study

- Stirring speed & catalyst conc. (at given P/Rh) to check for **chemical regime Initial conc. of oct-1-ene Partial pressure of H² Partial pressure of CO**

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E^a = 25.8 kcal.mol-1

 0.4

[oct-1-ene] $_0$ (kmol.m⁻³_{org})

 R_0

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IL biphasic catalysis

Kinetic modeling

- n

Empirical rate models or **derived from elementary reaction steps**

 $Rh(CO)$ ₂(acac) +

[BuPy][BF₄]/heptane with sulfoxantphos

« Christiansen matrix » approach [Helfferich, 2004; Murzin and Salmi, 2005]

0-10-20-3030607 0-10-20-30-40 607 0-10-20-30-40-302 $0 - 10 - 20 - 30 - 40 - 50 - 6$ 010-10-30-40-507 010-20-30-40-30-6 $0.90 - 30 - 40 - 50 - 60 - 7$ $0 - 10 - 30 - 40 - 50 - 60 - 7$ 02030_40_30_60_7 0_1020_40_20_60_7 0_10_20_40_20_60_2 0.102010-00-00-7 0_1020 10_20_60_7 -0-10-1040-50-60. 0-10-10 405060-7

> $R =$ $ω_1ω_2ω_3ω_4ω_5ω_6ω_7$ DChristiansen + Tinhibition $C_{\text{cat,IL}}$

Hypotheses on irreversibility of elementary steps & rate-determining steps

 $R = f([H_2]_{\mathsf{IL}\varphi}, [\text{CO}]_{\mathsf{IL}\varphi}, [\text{cat}]_{\mathsf{IL}\varphi}, [\text{octene}]_{\mathsf{IL}\varphi}, T)$

Selection of best model(s) & optimization of rate parameters based on initial rates (after sensitivity study)

 $(1 + K_a AB + K_b AD + K_c BD + K_d ABD + K_e DB^2 + K_f A + K_\sigma AB^2 + K_b B + K_i D)$ $R =$ $kABCD$ $h^{\mathbf{D} + \mathbf{n}}$ i 2 $f^{\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}}g$ + K_aAB + K_bAD + K_cBD + K_dABD + K_eDB² + K_fA + K_gAB² + K_hB + Ex: $R =$

Kinetic study

IL biphasic catalysis

Kinetic modeling

Initial reaction rates

[Deshpande et al. (2011)]

Accounting for isomerization

GC

oct-1-ene → n-nonanal R_1 oct-1-ene $\rm R_2$ \rightarrow iso-octenes iso-octenes ${\rm R}_3$ $\overset{\rightarrow}{\rightarrow}$ branched aldehydes

 $R_1 =$ $\rm k_1C_{H2,IL}C_{CO,IL}C_{cat,IL}C_{1oct, IL}$ $1 + K_{d1}C_{10}C_{1L}^{3}$ addition of $H₂$ as rate determining step

Time-concentration profiles

$$
\left(\mathbf{V}_{org} + \mathbf{V}_{IL}\mathbf{K}_{wnon} \frac{\rho_{IL}}{\rho_{org}}\right) \frac{dC_{mon,org}}{dt} = R_1 \mathbf{V}_{IL}
$$

$$
\left(\mathbf{V}_{org} + \mathbf{V}_{IL}\mathbf{K}_{woct} \frac{\rho_{IL}}{\rho_{org}}\right) \frac{dC_{loc,org}}{dt} = -(R_1 + R_2) \mathbf{V}_{IL}
$$

$$
\left(\mathbf{V}_{org} + \mathbf{V}_{IL}\mathbf{K}_{woct} \frac{\rho_{IL}}{\rho_{org}}\right) \frac{dC_{ioct,org}}{dt} = (R_2 - R_3) \mathbf{V}_{IL}
$$

$$
\left(\mathbf{V}_{org} + \mathbf{V}_{IL}\mathbf{K}_{wnon} \frac{\rho_{IL}}{\rho_{org}}\right) \frac{dC_{iald,org}}{dt} = R_3 \mathbf{V}_{IL}
$$

SFC Congress 2-4 July 2018 [Bmim][PF₆]/decane with TTPTS

[Sharma et al. (2010)]

- A Mass *transfer regime* (500 rpm): $R_0 \downarrow$ by 30% when $V_{IL}/V_{ora} \uparrow$ from 0.7 à 1.5
	- \rightarrow overestimation of R₀ by the coupling model
	- \rightarrow supplementary resistance from L-L mass transfer?

Improvements of IL system

[Bmim][PF⁶]/decane with TPPTS

IL biphasic catalysis

More selective ligand \bullet No isomerization

sulfoxantphos

 $[oct-1-ene]_0 \sim 0.9$ kmol.m⁻³_{org}

 Only n-nonanal detected as product But dramatic reduction of TOF (by a factor 20)

 \triangleright similar R₀ in both solvents (lower octene solubility in [BuPy][BF₄], partly offset by higher gas solubility)

 Similar trend as biphasic catalysis but \odot **lower amount of internal octenes** (with TPPTS) no CO inhibition observed (?)

 \odot TOF increased by a factor 7 = up to 560 h⁻¹ at 80^oC (conc. ratio of \sim 70 for olefin in between org. & IL φ)

Stable activity under recycling (Rh loss: 1-2 ppm)

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[Sharma (2009)]

Ex.2: Biphasic catalysis with CCM

From micellar catalyst …

using *cationic surfactants* (*1*) or *amphiphilic ligands* (*2*) © TOF up to 1000 h⁻¹ (1, 100°C) or 2500 h⁻¹ (2, 100°C) \odot stable emulsions by excessive swelling of the micellar core Loss of catalytic objects at the interface

Loss of metal (Rh)

… to polymeric core-shell catalyst

by cross-linking the hydrophobic segments of self-assembled amphiphilic block copolymers synthesized by "controlled" radical polymerization

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A closer look on CCM biphasic catalysis

Reference ligand arm SDPP:S =1:9 $DP_{P(S\text{-}co\text{-}SDPP)} = 300$

- made by convergent synthesis in water (shell \rightarrow core)
- reversible addition-fragmentation chain transfer (RAFT) as controlled polymerization method
- self-assembly of amphiphilic block copolymers
- addition of cross-linker together with additional styrene to form the core
- in-situ preparation of Rh-catalyst during heating period under a few bar of syngas (Rh precursor introduced after pre-swelling CCM with n-decanal (reaction solvent))

QUESTIONS:

- **Performance of CCM for aqueous biphasic catalysis?**
- Driving mechanisms? Any limitation by mass transfer to/in the objects?

⁼catalytic site

- How to optimize the objects?
- Content of the swelled CCM & phase separation dynamics?

with CCM

LCC

Proof of concept (1/2)

biphasic catalysis with CCM

Catalytic performance of CCM

Std conditions: Ref. TTP@CCM, $[Rh] = 6.5 \cdot 10^{-3}$ kmol $\cdot m^{-3}$ _{aq}, $[oct-1$ -ene] = 1.1 kmol $\cdot m^{-3}$ _{org} (solvent: n-decanal), $P/Rh = 4$, $V_{\text{ora}} = 75$ mL, $V_{\text{aa(ns)}} = 25$ mL, T = 363 K, P = 20 bar (CO/H₂ = 1), $\omega = 1200$ rpm

- \triangleright High catalytic activity (TOF \sim 500 h⁻¹ *vs.* 1000 h⁻¹ for homogeneous reaction with TPP functionalized star polymer), I/b ratio of \sim 5
- \triangleright No hydrogenation and nearly no isomerization
- \triangleright Low Rh leaching (~2 ppm measured by ICP/MS) and negligible activity of recovered organic phase
- **Excellent catalytic stability under recycling**, when kept under syngas or **without any caution**

Swelled TPP@CCM in aqueous phase

Organic phase (90% aldehyde yield after 3 h)

[Zhang et al. (2014)] SFC Congress 2-4 July 2018

Proof of concept (2/2)

biphasic catalysis with CCM

Driving mechanisms

Interfacial catalysis?

Addition of a stronger water-soluble ligand (sulfoXantphos, sX/Rh = 5) \rightarrow inhibition of the reaction (TOF_{max} = 13 h⁻¹)

No "surfactant effect"

Phosphine-free CCM

 \rightarrow very similar results as the homogeneous reaction without any ligand: aldehyde yield = 13% after 4 h (internal octenes = $35%$ of the substrate charge)

Rh coordination within the objects

Concept of « nano-reactors »

Catalysis within the hydrophobic microenvironment gathering catalyst and substrate

[Zhang et al. (2014)]

Mass transfer effects

biphasic catalysis with CCM

External mass transfer limitation?

- **Variation of** ω **[1200-1600 rpm]** \rightarrow **< 25% variation of R₀**
- **Increase of [Rh] by a factor 4**
	- * at given P/Rh
	- \rightarrow threefold increase in R_{0} * at given [TPP@CCM]
- Variation of [TPP@CCM] at given [Rh]
- \rightarrow no significant effect of P/Rh [4-12] on TOF nor on regioselectivity

Weak external mass transfer resistance, probably at gas-emulsion interface

Mass transfer effects

biphasic catalysis with CCM

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Weak external mass transfer resistance, probably at gas-emulsion interface

Internal mass transfer limitation?

- **Increase of SDPP:S:** from 1:19 to 1:3 *chemical effect for SDPP/S (Rh dimeric species?)*
- \rightarrow reduction of R₀ by a factor > 3
- **Increase of DP**: from 300 to 500 \rightarrow R₀ & I/b ratio unchanged
- Variation of T [70-90 $^{\circ}$ C] \rightarrow E_A ~22 kcal.mol⁻¹
- \rightarrow value close to those reported in chemical regime in homogeneous / biphasic system with TPP(TS)

Internal diffusion within the objects is not rate-limiting

Optimization of CCM architecture

Length of hydrophobic segment /

 \rightarrow no significant effect of increasing DP on R₀ or regioselectivity, slight reduction of Rh loss

Functionalization degree (SDDP:S) -

 \rightarrow Significant decrease of activity for higher SDPP:S, low effect on I/b ratio or metal leaching (CCM or nanogel) \bullet pH = 3.5

- \rightarrow Accessibility to the catalytic complexes not significantly reduced by cross-linking $(R_0 \downarrow$ by 30%), but **dramatic reduction of Rh loss** from 7.2 to 0.6 ppm
- \rightarrow Rh loss sensible to ω for CCM, but no effect for nanogel

Shell properties

 \rightarrow stability \uparrow when pH \uparrow from 3.5 to 7 \rightarrow effect of methacrylic acid moieties \rightarrow [Rh]_{org} reduced to 0.1 ppm at 60°C \rightarrow effect of thermosensitive PEG

biphasic catalysis

with CCM

Towards a kinetic model

Selection of nanogel with 5% SDPP (pH=7)

biphasic catalysis with CCM

Parametric study

Initial conc. of oct-1-ene Partial pressure of H² Partial pressure of CO

 $E_a = 20.2$ kcal.mol⁻¹

Evaluation of the nanogel composition

 \triangleright Concentration of the latex by centrifugal ultrafiltration \triangleright Extraction of the object content by MHS & GC-MS analysis \rightarrow up to now only qualitative information (difficulty in standardizing the method)

[Lobry et al. (2016)]

Dynamics of φ separation

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biphasic catalysis with CCM

Turbidity evolution

Sampling (30 mL) close to the W/O interface, 10 min after stopping the stirring **translucent organic phase Separation at ambient T**

 \rightarrow NTU obtained after 8h \sim value of samples analyzed by ICP / AES for Rh leaching

Sampling of the whole emulsion (20 mL)

00h:16m:00s

00h:34m:00s 00h:50m:00s

01h:06m:00s 01h:24m:00s 01h:40m:00s

01h:56m:00s 02h:14m:00s 02h:30m:00

Dynamics of φ separation

biphasic catalysis with CCM

Turbidity evolution

Sampling (30 mL) close to the W/O interface, 10 min after stopping the stirring **translucent organic phase Separation at ambient T**

 \rightarrow NTU obtained after 8h \sim value of samples analyzed by ICP / AES for Rh leaching

Sampling of the whole emulsion (20 mL) & **separation at 60ºC** (Turbiscan) **Stability evolution**

showing **2 successive steps**:

- \rightarrow a rapid disengagement (formation of two distinct φ) in 20 minutes
- \rightarrow a much slower φ evolution tending towards a plateau after 3 hours
	- $T = 83\% \leftrightarrow 0.02\%$ of solid content

$$
\leftrightarrow [Rh] \sim 1 \text{ ppm } (P/Rh = 4) \qquad \text{22}
$$

Conclusions & perspectives

- **High Turn Over Frequency** was obtained for the Rh-catalyzed hydroformylation of oct-1 ene in multiphase systems, using either ionic liquids or nanogel-based catalysts in water
- **Successful collaboration between chemistry and chemical engineering teams** allowed **understanding several features** of these complex systems, as well as providing **clues for their optimization**
- Kinetic, mass transfer & separation studies paved the **way for the design & scale-up of continuous process** with these systems, but still Rh leaching needs to be further reduced
- Further developments would be also required to better describe the **coupling between mass transfer & catalytic reaction**

Acknowledgements

Indo-French Center For the Promotion of Advanced Research **CEEIPR4** for funding the project 3305-2 "Reaction Engineering in Ionic Liquids"

Agence Nationale de la Recherche for funding the Biphasnanocat Project (ANR-11-BS07-025-01),

Our PhD & post-doc students: A. Sharma, A. Cardozo, E. Lobry

Our technical staff: J.L. Labat, M. Morere I. Coghe, L. Farhi, M.L. Pern (LGC), for their support on the reactor pilot and the analyses

Our project partners at NCL, LCC & C2P2

Thank you for your kind attention!

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