

Kinetic Model for the Direct Conversion of CO₂/CO into Light Olefins over an In₂O₃–ZrO₂/SAPO-34 Tandem Catalyst

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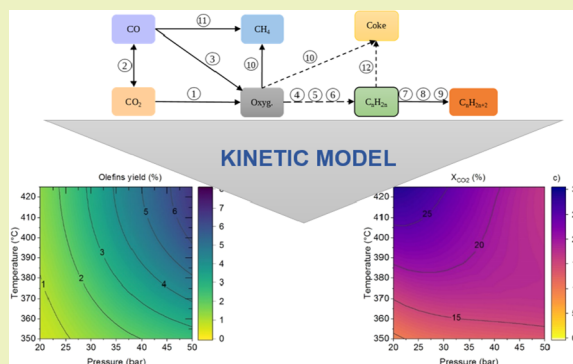
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ABSTRACT: An original kinetic model is proposed for the direct production of light olefins by hydrogenation of CO₂/CO (CO_x) mixtures over an In₂O₃–ZrO₂/SAPO-34 tandem catalyst, quantifying deactivation by coke. The reaction network comprises 12 individual reactions, and deactivation is quantified with expressions dependent on the concentration of methanol (as coke precursor) and H₂O and H₂ (as agents attenuating coke formation). The experimental results were obtained in a fixed-bed reactor under the following conditions: In₂O₃–ZrO₂/SAPO-34 mass ratio, 0/1–1/0; 350–425 °C; 20–50 bar; H₂/CO_x ratio, 1–3; CO₂/CO_x ratio, 0–1; space time, 0–10 g_{In₂O₃–ZrO₂} h mol_C^{–1}, 0–20 g_{SAPO-34} h mol_C^{–1}; time, up to 500 h; H₂O and CH₃OH in the feed, up to 5% vol. The utility of the model for further scale-up studies is demonstrated by its application in optimizing the process variables (temperature, pressure, and CO₂/CO_x ratio). The model predicts an olefin yield higher than 7% (selectivity above 60%), a CO_x conversion of 12% and a CO₂ conversion of 16% at 415 °C and 50 bar, for a CO₂/CO_x = 0.5 in the feed. Additionally, an analysis of the effect of In₂O₃–ZrO₂ and SAPO-34 loading in the configuration of the tandem catalyst is conducted, yielding 17% olefins and complete conversion of CO₂ under full water removal conditions.

KEYWORDS: kinetic model, deactivation, CO₂ valorization, olefins, In₂O₃–ZrO₂, SAPO-34, tandem catalyst



INTRODUCTION

The processes for the direct production of fuels and chemicals by hydrogenation of CO₂, such as the modified Fischer–Tropsch (MFT)¹ and oxygenates (methanol/dimethyl ether (DME)) intermediated routes,² are particularly attractive within the framework of Carbon Capture Utilization and Sequestration (CCUS) strategies.³ The route proceeding via oxygenates as intermediates requires OX/ZEO (metallic oxide/zeotype) tandem catalysts⁴ and enables the selective production of olefins,⁵ paraffins,⁶ aromatics,^{7,8} or C₅₊ hydrocarbons suitable for use as gasoline^{9,10} by selecting a zeotype with appropriate acidity and shape selectivity. A notable advantage of this process compared to the two-stage synthesis of methanol and subsequent conversion to hydrocarbons is that the *in situ* conversion of methanol/DME to hydrocarbons shifts the thermodynamic equilibrium of methanol synthesis.¹¹

The processes of methanol/DME synthesis from CO₂ and the conversion of oxygenates to hydrocarbons have reached considerable level and technological development.^{12–17} Similarly, the conversion of methanol to hydrocarbons has also progressed.^{18–23} However, the optimal conditions for the integrated process differ from those of the individual reaction stages. Moreover, the composition of the reaction medium is also different. Consequently, OX/ZEO tandem catalysts with different configurations, activities, selectivities, and stabilities

have been designed for the specific reaction conditions of the integrated process.²⁴

In previous studies, the excellent performance of the In₂O₃–ZrO₂/SAPO-34 tandem catalyst for the selective production of light olefins was examined,²⁵ based on the synergy between the CO₂ adsorption capacity and hydrogenation activity of the oxygen vacancies on the In₂O₃–ZrO₂ catalyst surface,²⁶ and on the characteristic olefin selectivity of the CHA (Chabazite) structure of SAPO-34.²⁷ Additionally, the ability of this catalyst to simultaneously convert CO₂ and CO facilitates the cofeeding of syngas with CO₂, which contributes to the sustainability process (when syngas is obtained from biomass or waste of the consumer society) and provides part of the required green H₂. The negative synergistic effects of excessive concentration of H₂O and methanol in the medium of the integrated process have also been studied. Particularly the features regarding the deactivation of the tandem catalyst, which affects the reaction conditions,²⁸ the configuration of the

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tandem catalyst (OX/ZEO ratio), and the arrangement in the reactor, which must be appropriate to mitigate deactivation.²⁹

In this paper, an original kinetic model has been established, which is essential for the scale-up of the process. Note that previous studies on the kinetic modeling of the direct synthesis of hydrocarbons from CO₂ over tandem catalysts are scarce. Ghosh et al.³⁰ proposed a kinetic model for the conversion of CO₂ to a broad range of hydrocarbons (C₂–C₉₊, including aromatics) over an In₂O₃/HZSM-5 tandem catalyst. The reaction network consists of 21 elementary steps (simplified to 11), considering the reactions catalyzed by the In₂O₃ and the HZSM-5 catalysts. The rate kinetic equations follow a Langmuir–Hinshelwood (LH) type, including terms that quantify the extent of reaction limitation by reactant adsorption on the active sites of each individual catalyst. To simplify the calculation of the kinetic parameters, previously obtained for the reactions involved in methanol synthesis catalyzed by In₂O₃³¹ were used and those for the reactions activated by HZSM-5 zeolite were calculated. Cordero–Lanzac et al.³² established a kinetic model for the direct formation of C₂–C₄ paraffins from CO₂/CO over a PdZn/ZrO₂ + SAPO-34 tandem catalyst. The reaction network consists of seven reaction steps, considering the reactions activated by the PdZn/ZrO₂ catalyst (methanol synthesis from CO₂, reverse Water Gas Shift (rWGS), methanation, and formation of each C₂–C₄ paraffin from methanol). In this model, the expressions of the reaction rates follow LH-type equations and quantify the limitations of the reaction extent due to reactant and H₂O adsorption. It is noteworthy that these kinetic models in the literature^{30,32} do not consider catalyst deactivation, nor the cofeeding of CO, which are original aspects considered in this manuscript. The applicability of the model to tandem catalysts with different loadings of In₂O₃–ZrO₂ and SAPO-34 is also an original contribution. The versatility of the kinetic model is demonstrated by applying it to analyze the effect of reaction variables, such as pressure, temperature, and space time of each individual catalyst, while also considering the cofeeding of CO along with CO₂.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Tandem catalysts were obtained by physically mixing the In₂O₃–ZrO₂ and SAPO-34 (ACS Material) catalysts with particle sizes in the range of 125–250 and 300–400 μm, respectively. The preparation of In₂O₃–ZrO₂ was previously described in detail elsewhere by Portillo et al.²⁶ Briefly, a coprecipitation using In(NO₃)₃ (Sigma-Aldrich), Zr(NO₃)₄ (Panreac), and NH₄CO₃ (Panreac) was carried out. The fresh and deactivated catalysts were extensively characterized in previous studies,^{26,27} and their properties are presented in Section S1 (Table S1).

The kinetic runs were conducted using a PID Eng. & Tech. Microactivity Reference reactor setup, as detailed in Portillo et al.,²⁵ employing an isothermal fixed-bed reactor under a wide range of operating conditions: In₂O₃–ZrO₂/SAPO-34 mass ratio, 0/1–1/0; 350–425 °C; 20–50 bar; H₂/CO_x molar ratio in the feed, 1–3; CO₂/CO_x molar ratio in the feed, 0–1; space time (defined as the ratio between the mass of each individual catalyst and the molar flow of CO₂/CO at the reactor inlet), 0–10 g_{In₂O₃–ZrO₂} h mol_C⁻¹, 0–20 g_{SAPO-34} h mol_C⁻¹; time on stream, up to 500 h; H₂O and CH₃OH in the feed, up to 5% vol. For the analysis of the composition of the feed and product streams, a Varian CP-4900 (Agilent) microchromatograph was used, as described by Portillo et al.²⁵

In Section S2, Table S2 specifies the conditions used for each experimental run considered for the modeling. Note that several runs were repeated to ascertain the reproducibility of the experiment. As an example of the reproducibility of the runs, the results of three

reactions carried out at certain conditions are displayed in Figure S1. Moreover, the absence of mass transfer constraints for the catalysts was ascertained in Section S3, both theoretically, according to the compliance with the Weisz–Prater criteria (eq S1) for the internal diffusion, and also experimentally, as illustrated in Figures S2 and S3, for internal and external diffusion, respectively.

The modeling was carried out fitting the molar fractions of the components, and the simulation results were quantified by calculating olefin yields, Y_i (eq S2), CO₂ conversion, X_{CO_2} (eq S3), and CO_x conversion, X_{CO_x} (eq S4) based on the molar flows of the reactants and products in C content units as defined in Section S4.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Reaction Network. The reaction network, as illustrated in Figure 1, gathers the reactions outlined in Table 1. The

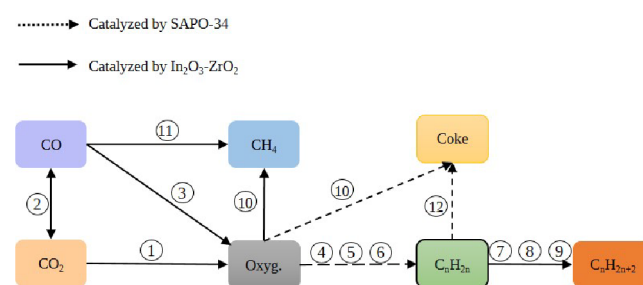


Figure 1. Proposed reaction network. The numbers correspond to the individual reactions in Table 1.

In₂O₃–ZrO₂ catalyzes the methanol synthesis (steps 1, 3; eqs 1 and 3), reverse Water Gas Shift (rWGS) (eq 2), hydrogenation of olefins to paraffins (steps 7–9; eqs 7–9), and methanation (step 11, eq 11) reactions. On the other hand, SAPO-34 catalyzes the formation of olefins from methanol/DME, as described in steps 4–6 (eqs 4–6), with methanol as the reactant, considering DME as an intermediate given its more reactive nature.³³ The decomposition (thermal cracking) of oxygenates (step 10; eq 10), contributes to the formation of CH₄. The reaction network also incorporates the pathways for coke formation, including the decomposition of oxygenates (step 10, eq 10) and the dehydrocyclization of olefins, leading to the formation of aromatics as intermediates, which subsequently condense into polyaromatic species.³⁴

Kinetic Equations. The expressions for the kinetics reaction rates are described in Table 1 (eqs 13–23) along with the corresponding individual reaction. The terms θ_{InZr} and $\theta_{\text{SAPO-34}}$ consider that the extent of the individual reactions in Table 1 catalyzed by In₂O₃–ZrO₂ and SAPO-34 catalysts, respectively, is limited by the competitive adsorption of different components in the reaction medium on the active sites. This leads to the formulation of a Langmuir–Hinshelwood (LH)-type kinetic model. The best fit of the kinetic model was determined with the following expressions (eqs 24 and 25). Cordero–Lanzac et al.³² justify the expressions in eqs 24 and 25 by emphasizing the reaction mechanisms and the role of CO₂ and H₂ adsorption as rate-limiting steps in methanol synthesis, as well as the role of H₂O adsorption in limiting SAPO-34 activity in the conversion of oxygenates to olefins.

$$\theta_{\text{InZr}} = \frac{1}{(1 + K_{\text{CO}_2}^{\text{InZr}} P_{\text{CO}_2} + (K_{\text{H}_2}^{\text{InZr}} P_{\text{H}_2})^{1/2})^2} \quad (24)$$

Table 1. Individual Reactions Involved in the Reaction Network of Figure 1 and Corresponding Kinetic Equations

reaction	kinetic equation
$\text{CO}_2 + 3\text{H}_2 \xrightleftharpoons{1} \text{CH}_3\text{OH} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1)	$r_1 = k_1 \left(P_{\text{CO}_2} P_{\text{H}_2}^3 - \frac{P_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{K_1} \right) \cdot \theta_{\text{InZr}} \cdot a_{\text{InZr}}$ (13)
$\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2 \xrightleftharpoons{2} \text{CO} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (2)	$r_2 = k_2 \left(P_{\text{CO}_2} P_{\text{H}_2} - \frac{P_{\text{CO}} P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{K_2} \right) \cdot \theta_{\text{InZr}} \cdot a_{\text{InZr}}$ (14)
$\text{CO} + 2\text{H}_2 \xrightleftharpoons{3} \text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ (3)	$r_3 = k_3 \left(P_{\text{CO}} P_{\text{H}_2}^2 - \frac{P_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}}{K_3} \right) \cdot \theta_{\text{InZr}} \cdot a_{\text{InZr}}$ (15)
$2\text{CH}_3\text{OH} \xrightarrow{4} \text{C}_2\text{H}_4 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (4)	$r_4 = k_4 \cdot P_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} \cdot \theta_{\text{SAPO-34}} \cdot a_{\text{SAPO-34}}$ (16)
$3\text{CH}_3\text{OH} \xrightarrow{5} \text{C}_3\text{H}_6 + 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (5)	$r_5 = k_5 \cdot P_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} \cdot \theta_{\text{SAPO-34}} \cdot a_{\text{SAPO-34}}$ (17)
$4\text{CH}_3\text{OH} \xrightarrow{6} \text{C}_4\text{H}_8 + 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (6)	$r_6 = k_6 \cdot P_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} \cdot \theta_{\text{SAPO-34}} \cdot a_{\text{SAPO-34}}$ (18)
$\text{C}_2\text{H}_4 + \text{H}_2 \xrightarrow{7} \text{C}_2\text{H}_6$ (7)	$r_7 = k_7 \cdot P_{\text{C}_2\text{H}_4} P_{\text{H}_2} \cdot \theta_{\text{InZr}} \cdot a_{\text{InZr}}$ (19)
$\text{C}_3\text{H}_6 + \text{H}_2 \xrightarrow{8} \text{C}_3\text{H}_8$ (8)	$r_8 = k_8 \cdot P_{\text{C}_3\text{H}_6} P_{\text{H}_2} \cdot \theta_{\text{InZr}} \cdot a_{\text{InZr}}$ (20)
$\text{C}_4\text{H}_8 + \text{H}_2 \xrightarrow{9} \text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}$ (9)	$r_9 = k_9 \cdot P_{\text{C}_4\text{H}_8} P_{\text{H}_2} \cdot \theta_{\text{InZr}} \cdot a_{\text{InZr}}$ (21)
$m\text{CH}_3\text{OCH}_3 \xrightarrow{10} m\text{CO} + p\text{CO}_2 + q\text{H}_2 + r\text{CH}_4 + s\text{H}_2\text{O} + x\text{C (coke)}$ (10)	$r_{10} = k_{10} \cdot P_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} P_{\text{H}_2} \cdot \theta_{\text{InZr}}$ (22)
$\text{CO} + 3\text{H}_2 \xrightleftharpoons{11} \text{CH}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (11)	$r_{11} = k_{11} \cdot P_{\text{CO}} P_{\text{H}_2}^3 \cdot \theta_{\text{InZr}}$ (23)
$\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n} \xrightleftharpoons{12} n\text{C (coke)} + n\text{H}_2$ (12)	

Table 2. Parameters of the Kinetic Model (Units at the End)^a

Apparent kinetic parameters ^b		
	k_j^*	E
k_2	$4.0 \times 10^{-2} \pm 7.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$8.1 \times 10^0 \pm 1.2 \times 10^0$
k_3	$2.3 \times 10^{-5} \pm 5.2 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.8 \times 10^0 \pm 4.0 \times 10^{-2}$ (same for k_1)
k_5	$3.6 \times 10^0 \pm 4.9 \times 10^{-4}$	$7.2 \times 10^0 \pm 1.9 \times 10^0$ (same for k_4 and k_6)
k_8	$7.4 \times 10^{-2} \pm 1.5 \times 10^{-3}$	$7.3 \times 10^{-2} \pm 6.1 \times 10^{-4}$ (same for k_7 and k_9)
k_{10}	$1.7 \times 10^{-2} \pm 7.2 \times 10^{-4}$	$9.2 \times 10^1 \pm 1.5 \times 10^1$
Apparent adsorption parameters		
	$K_{\text{ads}}^{\text{InZr}}$	ΔH
$K_{\text{CO}_2}^{\text{InZr}}$	$5.1 \times 10^0 \pm 5.9 \times 10^{-1}$	$-5.1 \times 10^0 \pm 9.6 \times 10^{-1}$
$K_{\text{H}_2}^{\text{InZr}}$	$7.6 \times 10^{-3} \pm 4.3 \times 10^{-4}$	$-1.7 \times 10^2 \pm 3.8 \times 10^0$
$K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^{\text{SAPO-34}}$	$3.1 \times 10^{-4} \pm 7.4 \times 10^{-5}$	$-9.4 \times 10^{-1} \pm 2.9 \times 10^{-1}$
Apparent deactivation parameters		
	k_{dj}^*	E_d
$k_{d,\text{InZr}}$	$5.7 \times 10^{-3} \pm 1.7 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.0 \times 10^0 \pm 6.4 \times 10^{-2}$
$k_{d,\text{SAPO-34}}$	$5.7 \times 10^3 \pm 2.5 \times 10^2$	$1.4 \times 10^{-2} \pm 5.0 \times 10^{-3}$
Apparent adsorption parameters for deactivation		
	$K_{d,j}^{\text{InZr}}$	
$K_{d,\text{H}_2\text{O}}^{\text{InZr}}$	$4.1 \times 10^{-2} \pm 4.2 \times 10^{-4}$	$-2.7 \times 10^2 \pm 8.2 \times 10^1$
$K_{d,\text{H}_2}^{\text{InZr}}$	$4.2 \times 10^{-3} \pm 1.0 \times 10^{-3}$	$-4.0 \times 10^1 \pm 9.8 \times 10^0$
$K_{d,\text{H}_2\text{O}}^{\text{SAPO-34}}$	$6.8 \times 10^{-3} \pm 1.3 \times 10^{-3}$	$-4.2 \times 10^0 \pm 9.1 \times 10^{-2}$
$K_{d,\text{H}_2}^{\text{SAPO-34}}$	$2.8 \times 10^{-4} \pm 1.1 \times 10^{-4}$	$-1.3 \times 10^1 \pm 2.8 \times 10^0$
Deactivation order		
	d_{InZr}	
	$1.2 \pm 1.7 \times 10^{-2}$	
	$d_{\text{SAPO-34}}$	
	$2.6 \pm 1.5 \times 10^{-2}$	

^aUnits: $k_{1,11}$: mol_C g⁻¹ h⁻¹ bar⁻⁴; $k_{2,8}$: mol_C g⁻¹ h⁻¹ bar⁻²; $k_{3,7,9,10}$: mol_C g⁻¹ h⁻¹ bar⁻³; $k_{4-6,d}$: mol_C g⁻¹ h⁻¹ bar⁻¹; E_d , ΔH , E_d : kJ mol⁻¹; K: bar⁻¹.

^bNote: $k_1 = 0.01$ k_3 ; $k_4 = 0.36$ k_5 ; $k_6 = 0.30$ k_5 ; $k_7 = 0.36$ k_8 ; $k_9 = 0.11$ k_8 ; $k_{11} = 10^{-5}$ k_{10}

$$\theta_{\text{SAPO-34}} = \frac{1}{1 + K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^{\text{SAPO-34}} P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}} \quad (25)$$

The deactivation of each catalyst by coke in the tandem catalyst is considered in eqs 13–21 and 23 with two activity

terms, a_{InZr} and $a_{\text{SAPO-34}}$ corresponding to the In₂O₃–ZrO₂ and SAPO-34 catalysts, respectively. These terms are defined as reaction rate ratios, as defined by Levenspiel et al.,³⁵ and are calculated as described by Cordero–Lanzac et al.³⁶ to take into account the *past history* of the catalyst. The deactivation kinetic

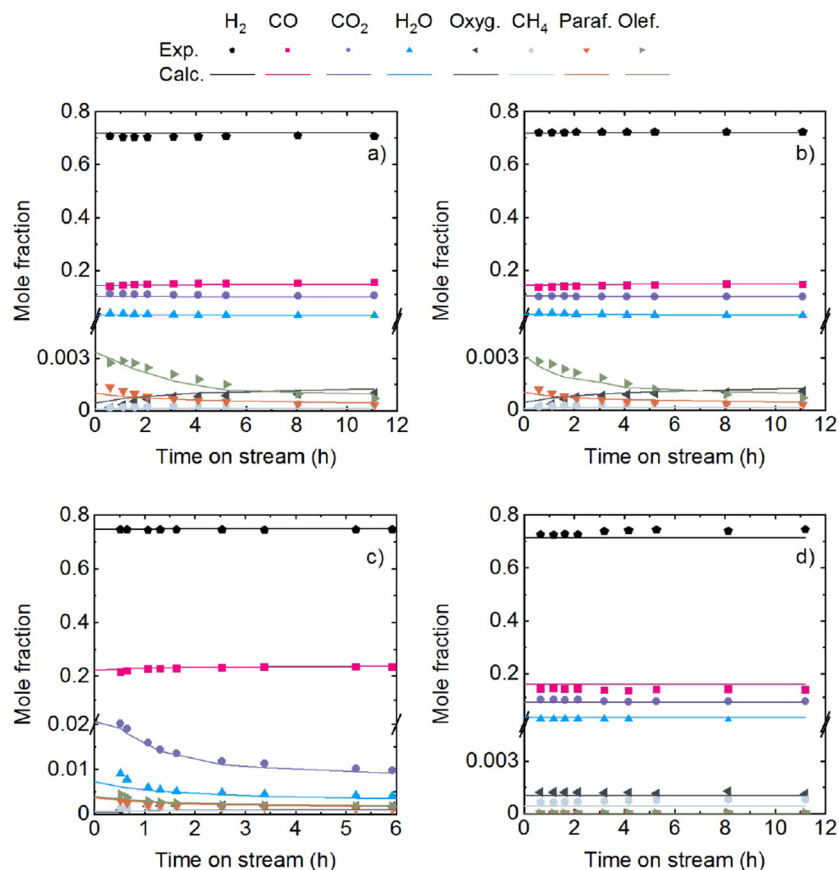


Figure 2. Evolution of product molar fractions with time on stream for the experimental data and calculated values. Reaction conditions: 400 °C; 30 bar; H₂/CO_x ratio in the feed, 3; CO₂/CO_x ratio in the feed, 0.5; space time, 5 g_{cat} h mol_C⁻¹; In₂O₃-ZrO₂/SAPO-34, 2/1 (a). 375 °C; 30 bar; H₂/CO_x ratio in the feed, 3; CO₂/CO_x ratio in the feed, 0.5; space time, 5 g_{cat} h mol_C⁻¹; and In₂O₃-ZrO₂/SAPO-34, 2/1 (b). 400 °C; 50 bar; H₂/CO_x ratio in the feed, 3; CO₂/CO_x ratio in the feed, 0.5; space time, 6.67 g_{cat} h mol_C⁻¹; and In₂O₃-ZrO₂/SAPO-34, 2/2 (c). 400 °C; 30 bar; H₂/CO_x ratio in the feed, 3; CO₂/CO_x ratio in the feed, 0.5; space time, 3.33 g_{cat} h mol_C⁻¹; and In₂O₃-ZrO₂/SAPO-34, 2/0 (d).

expressions are dependent on the concentration of methanol, which is the main precursor of coke:

$$-\frac{da_{\text{InZr}}}{dt} = k_{d,\text{InZr}} \cdot P_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} \cdot \theta_{d,\text{InZr}} \cdot a_{\text{InZr}}^{d_{\text{InZr}}} \quad (26)$$

$$-\frac{da_{\text{SAPO-34}}}{dt} = k_{d,\text{SAPO-34}} \cdot P_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} \cdot \theta_{d,\text{SAPO-34}} \cdot a_{\text{SAPO-34}}^{d_{\text{SAPO-34}}} \quad (27)$$

In these equations, the terms $\theta_{d,\text{InZr}}$ and $\theta_{d,\text{SAPO-34}}$ quantify the limitation of the extent of coke formation reactions on the In₂O₃-ZrO₂ and SAPO-34 catalysts, respectively, due to the presence of H₂O and H₂, as described by the following expressions:

$$\theta_{d,\text{InZr}} = \frac{1}{(1 + K_{d,\text{H}_2\text{O}}^{\text{InZr}} P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} + (K_{d,\text{H}_2}^{\text{InZr}} P_{\text{H}_2})^{1/2})^2} \quad (28)$$

$$\theta_{d,\text{SAPO-34}} = \frac{1}{(1 + K_{d,\text{H}_2\text{O}}^{\text{SAPO-34}} P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} + (K_{d,\text{H}_2}^{\text{SAPO-34}} P_{\text{H}_2})^{1/2})^2} \quad (29)$$

Eqs 26 and 27, along with their complementary counterparts, eqs 28 and 29, align with the results of coke deposition determined in a previous study through TPO analysis of the two catalysts employed under different conditions.²⁸ Notable findings from these results include: (i) higher coke deposition in SAPO-34; (ii) the influence of methanol concentration

favoring coke formation, while H₂O mitigates this formation; and (iii) the converging trend of coke content evolution over time on stream toward a limiting value.

Moreover, it must be mentioned that the role of H₂O^{28,37-40} and H₂^{29,41-43} as mitigating agents of coke deposition in the conversion of methanol/DME over acid catalysts is well established. Presumably, the role of H₂O in attenuating the condensation of coke intermediates, and of H₂ in facilitating their hydrogenation, will be similar for the coke deposited on the In₂O₃-ZrO₂ catalyst, thereby mitigating its deactivation.

In the calculations, temperature-dependent equilibrium constants for methanol synthesis reactions (steps 1 and 3 in Figure 1) and rWGS (step 2) were used, as proposed by Ateka et al.¹² These expressions were calculated from standard values of formation enthalpies and entropies for the components of each individual reaction.⁴⁴

The mathematical approach used for analyzing the kinetic data in this study has been described in other catalytic processes,^{36,45,46} and briefly in Section S5.

Fitting of the Model and Apparent Kinetic Parameters. To evaluate the strong agreement between the calculated molar fractions of the components in the outlet stream of the reactor and the corresponding experimental data, parity plots are presented in Figure S4 (Section S6). The quality of the fit between the calculated and experimental results falls within the typical ranges found in the literature for kinetic models of

other catalytic processes with complex reaction schemes that consider catalyst deactivation.^{36,47–49}

The values of the apparent kinetic parameters resulting in the best fit (with a minimal error objective function, eq S6, corresponding to a confidence degree of 95%) are presented in Table 2. The model simplification study (based on the significance test explained in Section S5), verified that the fit did not improve using different apparent activation energies for the conversion of CO₂ and CO into methanol (steps 1 and 3, respectively, in Figure 1). This lack of improvement may be attributed to their relationship through the rWGS reaction (step 2). Similarly, there was no significant enhancement in the model fit when considering different apparent activation energies in the individual formation of olefins (steps 4–6) and paraffins (steps 7–9), and in the formation of CH₄ through decomposition of methanol (step 10) and oxygenates (step 11). Consequently, the kinetic constants for these steps with the same apparent activation energies are expressed in Table 2 relative to the highest value within the group of reactions sharing the same activation energy. Additionally, constants with the same activation energy are specified at the bottom of the Table 2.

Further comparing the values in Table 2, the apparent constant related to the formation of oxygenates from CO₂ is even 100 times lower than that corresponding to the formation from CO ($k^*_3 = 2.3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol}_C \text{ g}^{-1} \text{ bar}^{-3}$). This result confirms that methanol formation reaction will be the key conditioning factor in the extent of the process and that the rWGS reaction plays a crucial role in converting the CO₂/CO mixture into oxygenates, as established in the literature.¹¹

Comparing the apparent activation energy values of each reaction, the highest value (92.5 kJ mol⁻¹) corresponds to CH₄ and coke formation from oxygenates (E_{10}), which is in line with the thermal nature of this reaction, that requires temperature control to minimize its extent. The low apparent activation energy values in deactivation kinetics can be justified in catalytic processes involving coke deactivation, where the coke formation/elimination mechanism is complex, and reaction temperature has different effects in reactions of oligomerization, cyclization, dehydrogenation, cracking, etc., justify the apparent activation energy.^{50,51}

The remarkable difference between the deactivation constant of SAPO-34 at the reference temperature ($5.7 \times 10^3 \text{ mol}_C \text{ g}^{-1} \text{ bar}^{-1}$) and the negligible value for the In₂O₃–ZrO₂ catalyst ($5.7 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol}_C \text{ g}^{-1} \text{ bar}^{-1}$) is consistent with previously reported coke deposition results in both catalysts.²⁸ Moreover, comparing the effect of H₂O adsorption on olefin formation reactions: ($K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^{\text{SAPO-34}} = 3.1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ bar}^{-1}$) and deactivation of SAPO-34 ($K_{d,\text{H}_2\text{O}}^{\text{SAPO-34}} = 6.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ bar}^{-1}$), it is observed that the presence of H₂O offers more advantages (referred to deactivation attenuation) than disadvantages (attenuation of olefin formation). The deactivation kinetics order for the In₂O₃–ZrO₂ catalyst (1.2) indicates an almost linear dependence of the deactivation rate on the remnant activity in eq 26. However, the deactivation order for SAPO-34 in eq 27 is 2.6, indicating a deactivation mechanism with rapid pore blockage by coke deposition, which is typical for this catalyst in the conversion of oxygenates to olefins,^{52–54} but maintaining a remnant activity. This tendency is in good agreement with the evolution of coke deposition over time on stream.²⁸

Figure S5 displays a covariance matrix relating the kinetic parameters at reference temperature. These information ascertained there is not significant codependence between steps in the reaction mechanism apart from those already considered (correlation between the olefin formation steps 4–6; the steps of paraffin formation 7–9, and the two steps of methanol formation, thus, the formation from CO₂ (step 1) and the formation from CO (step 3)).

To evaluate the adequacy of fitting of the main lumps' evolution over time on stream, Figure 2 shows the molar fractions at the reactor outlet stream, comparing calculated values (lines) with experimental data (points). Challenging conditions with high catalyst deactivation were selected as examples. Figure 2a,b differ in reaction temperature of 400 and 375 °C, respectively. Figure 2c represents a different configuration of the tandem catalyst (In₂O₃–ZrO₂/SAPO-34 mass ratio of 1/1 instead of 2/1 in previous cases) and a higher pressure (50 bar instead of 30 bar). Figure 2d differs in the catalyst (no presence of SAPO-34) and space time (lower) compared with the conditions in Figure 2a. The comparison between calculated and experimental results demonstrates the model's ability to predict the performance under different conditions. Additionally, the model satisfactorily predicts the individual behavior of each catalyst in the tandem system and the impact of the presence of an additional SAPO-34 catalyst. It is observed in Figure 2a–c, that the presence of SAPO-34 is necessary for olefin formation, but rapid deactivation leads to significant composition changes over time on stream. Both Figure 2a,b (with little difference but slightly higher olefin yield at zero time on stream at 400 °C) show a decay in olefin and paraffin concentrations over time, whereas the concentrations of oxygenates (methanol) and CH₄ (very low concentration) increase. The deactivation kinetic model for SAPO-34 (with a deactivation order $d_{\text{SAPO-34}}$ of 2.6) predicts, in these figures, a tendency toward constant values over time on stream for the concentrations of olefins, paraffins, and oxygenates.

As mentioned before, the model predicts the complex effects of the catalyst configuration. Figure 2c illustrates the results for a tandem catalyst with a higher SAPO-34 content (In₂O₃–ZrO₂ to SAPO-34 ratio of 2/2). For this configuration, the model predicts two phenomena that have been experimentally observed: an increase in the formation of paraffins from olefins and a decrease, over time on stream, in the low concentration of CO₂ at the reactor outlet. Figure 2d, which corresponds to the results obtained with the In₂O₃–ZrO₂ catalyst, shows the model's prediction without the deactivation effect of SAPO-34. The In₂O₃–ZrO₂ catalyst is only active for the rWGS and methanol synthesis reactions, in which the concentration is much lower compared to that in previous cases due to the absence of synergy with the oxygenate-to-olefin conversion step.

The deactivation kinetics of the SAPO-34 catalyst are of great importance in the kinetic model. Figure S6a illustrates the evolution of the calculated activity with the longitudinal position and time on stream under specific reaction conditions. The preferential deactivation at the reactor inlet and the progressive trend for higher reactor longitudinal positions are characteristic of the MTO process,^{52,55} where coke is primarily formed through the adsorption of oxygenates as reactants on the acid sites, as described by the proposed kinetic eq (eq 27). In Figure S6b, it is observed that with the progression of

deactivation, the normalized olefin yield tends to a stable value corresponding to the remnant activity of the catalyst.

Relating this result to the kinetic model, it can be observed that the decrease in activity and the increase in oxygenate (methanol) concentration, due to deactivation, have opposite effects on the evolution of normalized olefin formation rate over time on stream (eqs 16–18 in Table 1). Thus, the product of these two variables (Figure S6c) follows the same trend and explains Figure S6a.

Reactor Simulation. The model allows for analyzing the effect of temperature, pressure, and CO_2/CO_x ratio in the feed on the yield of light olefins, as well as on CO_2 and CO_x conversions. As an example, the results in Figure 3 correspond

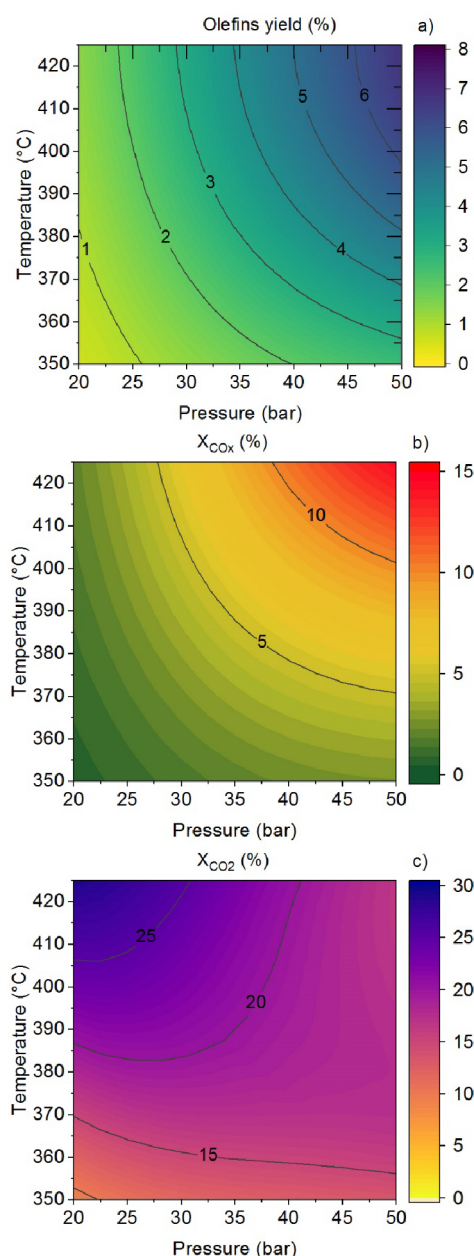


Figure 3. Prediction of the kinetic model on the effect of temperature and pressure on olefins yield (a), CO_x conversion (b), and CO_2 conversion (c). Reaction conditions: H_2/CO_x ratio in the feed, 3; CO_2/CO ratio in the feed, 0.5; space time, $5 \text{ g}_{\text{cat}} \text{ h mol}_C^{-1}$, and $\sim 0 \text{ h}$ on stream.

to the hydrogenation of an equimolar stream of CO and CO_2 using a catalyst with an $\text{In}_2\text{O}_3\text{-ZrO}_2/\text{SAPO-34}$ ratio of 2/1 under specific reaction conditions and at zero time on stream (fresh catalyst). Under such conditions, the maximum olefin yield exceeds 6% (Figure 3a) with a selectivity above 60%, CO_x conversion reaches 12% (Figure 3b) and CO_2 conversion accounts for 16% (Figure 3c) at 415°C and 50 bar.

It is worth noting that the methodology used in the kinetic modeling, considering the activity and deactivation independently for each of the individual catalysts, allows for predicting the performance of the tandem catalyst at different catalyst loadings. Figure 4a shows that the olefin yield increases with

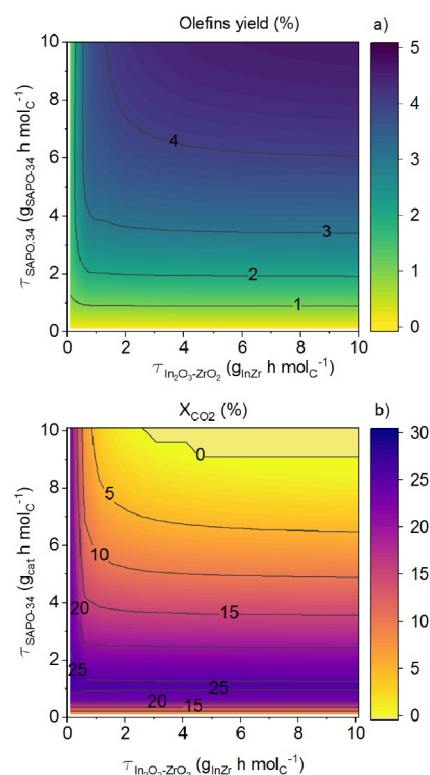


Figure 4. Prediction of the kinetic model on the effect of $\text{In}_2\text{O}_3\text{-ZrO}_2$ and SAPO-34 loadings on olefins yield (a) and CO_2 conversion (b). Reaction conditions: H_2/CO_x ratio in the feed, 3; CO_2/CO ratio in the feed, 0.5; 400°C ; $\sim 0 \text{ h}$ on stream; 50 bar (a) and 30 bar (b).

higher space time values of the SAPO-34 catalyst. Moreover, the $\text{In}_2\text{O}_3\text{-ZrO}_2/\text{SAPO-34}$ ratio of 2 (corresponding to a line with slope 2) exhibits the steepest slope, indicating that it is the optimal ratio for boosting the olefin yield. Figure 4b depicts the CO_2 conversion for different space time values of each of the individual catalysts, showing a maximum CO_2 conversion at low SAPO-34 loadings (slightly above $1 \text{ g}_{\text{SAPO-34}} \text{ h mol}_C^{-1}$). This circumstance predicted by the model is a direct consequence of the effect of H_2O concentration in the medium (resulting from rWGS, methanol dehydration, and olefin formation reaction), as it hampers the rWGS reaction and leads to a complete blockage of the CO_2 conversion.

Based on the aforementioned results, aside from the significant benefit in terms of catalyst stability, the concentration of H_2O in the reaction medium is the main limiting factor for achieving high olefin yields when the SAPO-34 content in the tandem catalyst is high. As evidence of this, a simulation was conducted for an ideal system in which H_2O is

immediately adsorbed. As shown in Figure 5a, the olefin yield surges to 17%, and complete CO₂ conversion is achieved

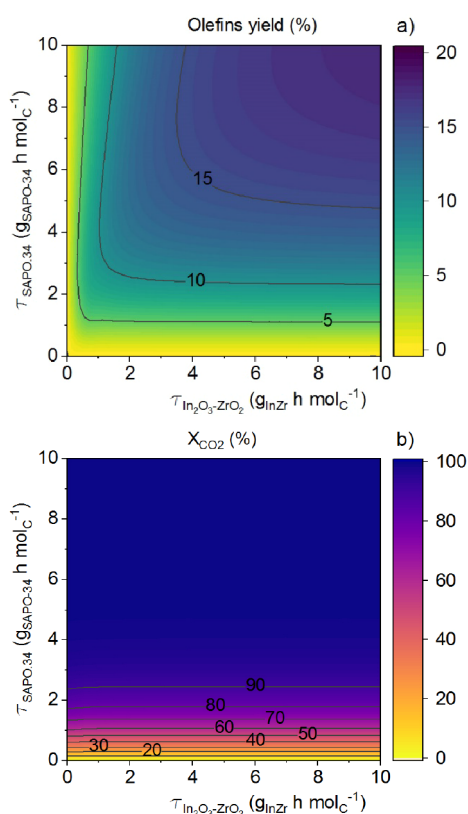


Figure 5. Prediction of the kinetic model on the effect of In₂O₃-ZrO₂ and SAPO-34 loadings on olefins yield (a) and CO₂ conversion (b) assuming complete and immediate H₂O removal. Reaction conditions: H₂/CO_x ratio in the feed, 3; CO₂/CO ratio in the feed, 0.5; 400 °C; 30 bar; and ~0 h on stream.

(Figure 5b). Therefore, two main strategies are proposed for further study seeking industrial operating conditions that imply H₂O removal: a hydrophilic membrane reactor or *in situ* H₂O adsorption. The latter alternative would require more investment in equipment to ensure continuous operation, that is, parallel reactors connected to an adsorption-desorption system. It is worth mentioning that significant technological advancements have been made in other catalytic processes involving CO₂ valorization in the presence of H₂O, such as the direct DME synthesis, which employs hydrophilic membranes^{56–58} or adsorption systems.⁵⁹

CONCLUSIONS

The proposed kinetic model is based on a reaction network with 12 individual steps and adequately describes the performance of an In₂O₃-ZrO₂/SAPO-34 tandem catalyst in the direct production of light olefins through the hydrogenation of CO₂/CO mixtures. The model predicts the performance in terms of product distribution, CO₂ and CO_x conversions, and their evolution over time on stream within the 350–425 °C, 20–50 bar ranges, and a CO₂/CO_x ratio between 0 and 1. Considering the activity of each individual catalyst in the kinetic model allows the prediction of the performance of the tandem catalyst when prepared by physical mixing with different loadings of the individual catalysts. It is also noteworthy that the deactivation of the tandem catalyst is

considered through kinetic equations for the deactivation of the individual catalysts, confirming that the deactivation of SAPO-34 is the main cause and the influence of methanol as a coke precursor and that of H₂O and H₂ concentrations as coke formation mitigating agents.

The model proves useful for optimizing process variables and predicts an olefin yield surpassing 6% (selectivity above 60%), a CO_x conversion of 12%, and a CO₂ conversion of 16% at 415 °C and 50 bar for a CO₂/CO_x ratio of 0.5 in the feed. Additionally, it quantifies the effect of the concentration of methanol, H₂O, and H₂ on the results, suggesting the opportunity to use a hydrophilic membrane reactor. Using this reactor, the model predicts an olefin yield of 17% and complete CO₂ conversion.

The availability of the proposed kinetic model is of significant interest for exploring the scale-up prospects of the process with catalysts utilizing In₂O₃-ZrO₃ and SAPO-34 in their configuration. Moreover, the fundamental aspects described in the development of the model will be useful for kinetic modeling with other OX/ZEO catalysts under development for the direct production of olefins and other hydrocarbons from CO₂/CO mixtures.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acssuschemeng.3c06914>.

Catalysts' properties are provided in Section S1; experimental run conditions and reproducibility in Section S2; assessment of potential mass transfer limitation in Section S3; reaction indices defined in Section S4; the methodology for kinetic data analysis described in Section S5; and, further information regarding the fitting obtained with the model and simulation in Section S6 (PDF)

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Notes

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