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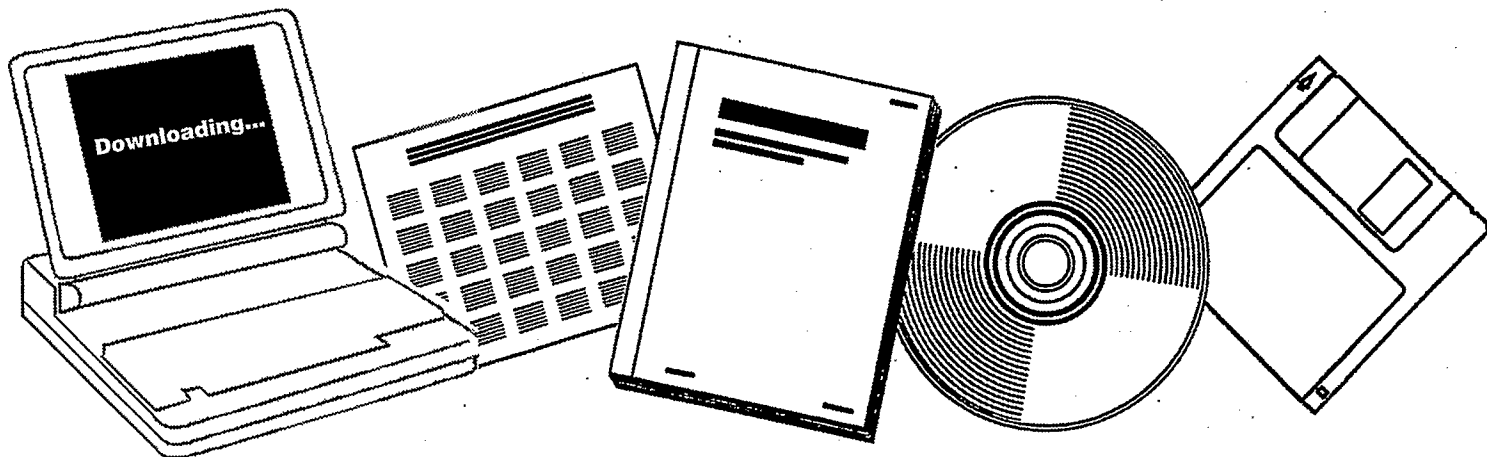
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**CHEMICAL TRAPPING AND IR STUDIES OF CO/H
EXP 2 SURFACE SPECIES. SECOND QUARTERLY
REPORT, DECEMBER 1985-FEBRUARY 1986**

**PITTSBURGH UNIV., PA. DEPT. OF CHEMICAL
AND PETROLEUM ENGINEERING**

MAR 1986



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**Chemical Trapping and IR Studies
of CO/H₂ Surface Species**

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2nd Quarterly Report
December 1985 - February 1986

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1. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF WORK

CO hydrogenation reactions over supported metals can produce a wide spectrum of hydrocarbon and oxygenated compounds depending to a large extent on the type of metal used. Elucidating the nature of the intermediate species formed on metal surfaces may provide the key to understanding the pathways through which these reactions proceed on different metals. Research is proposed to investigate intermediate species formed during CO hydrogenation reactions on silica-supported Pd, Rh, Ru, and Ni catalysts. A novel chemical trapping technique will be used to identify adsorbed intermediates. Coupled with in-situ IR spectroscopic investigations of adsorption and reaction on the catalysts, these trapping studies should provide a framework for understanding differences in CO hydrogenation reaction pathways over different metals. In addition, chemical trapping studies using selected transition metal complexes of known structure will be carried out to help evaluate the technique as well as to help establish relationships between homogeneous and heterogeneous catalytic reactions of CO and H₂.

2. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

During the second quarter of the project, emphasis has been placed on the construction of the chemical trapping reaction system and installation of the gas chromatograph. Two of the four catalyst systems were prepared, those being Ni/SiO₂ and Rh/SiO₂. Preliminary IR investigations of CO adsorption on Rh/SiO₂ have been performed.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF TECHNICAL PROGRESS

Personnel

Mr. John A. Williams and Mr. Prakosh G. Bendale continued to work as Ph.D. candidates in Chemical Engineering to assist the P.I.'s (Professors Blackmond and Wender).

Equipment

The reaction selectivity and in-situ chemical trapping studies during CO hydrogenation will be performed in single-pass glass or stainless steel microreactors equipped with on-line gas chromatographic analysis. The design of the reactor system was schematically shown in the last quarterly report (DOE/PC/85026-1). Three ultra high purity feed streams (H_2/CO , H_2 , He) will be available to the reaction system. Flow rates will be accurately controlled via separate Brooks Micro Mass flow controllers. Valving is arranged for the selection of one or more of the feed streams and switching therein. CO hydrogenation will be performed using a gaseous feed stream of a 2:1 H_2/CO mixture of at a flow rate of 10 to 200 cc/min (STP). Reaction conditions will be varied depending on catalyst selectivity. Anticipated reaction conditions are temperatures of 200-300°C and 0-10 atmospheres pressure. Trapping will be performed by redirection of a gaseous feed stream and passing it through a thermostated saturator containing the trapping agent. Catalyst sample weights will be chosen so as to maintain differential CO conversions. It is estimated that 100 to 1000 mg of catalyst sample will be required in the microreactor to obtain accurate analysis. Steady state gaseous reactor effluent samples will be taken periodically through an automatic sampling valve.

The reactor controls have been mounted and wired. The remainder of the reactor system has been constructed. The sampling valve is presently being installed. Standardization of the gas chromatograph has begun.

IR Investigations

Preliminary IR investigations of CO adsorption on Rh/SiO₂ were performed.

Model Transition Metal Complexes

The selection of model transition metal complexes were previously investigated and two complexes were chosen. The complexes are acetylene dicobalt hexacarbonyl (C₂H₂(Co(CO)₃)₂) and ethyl tricobalt enneacarbonyl (Co₃(CO)₉CCH₃). Preparation methods were previously determined for both complexes and the acetylene dicobalt hexacarbonyl complex was prepared for us commercially. The ethyl tricobalt enneacarbonyl model transition metal complex is still under preparation. These complexes will be contacted with the trapping reagents under various conditions to determine whether the organic ligands will interact with the reagent in the same manner as it is conjectured the hydrocarbon species on a metal catalyst surface do. These studies will enable us to test and evaluate the trapping technique for identification of surface species.

4. FORECAST OF WORK

During the third quarter, final testing of the reaction system and gas chromatograph is planned. Preliminary chemical trapping reaction work will commence with Ni/SiO₂ and then work will be focused on Rh/SiO₂. Preliminary IR work will continue with Ni/SiO₂ and Rh/SiO₂. Reactivity of the two model transition metal complexes will be investigated as described above.

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