Effect of the rheological properties of aqueous xanthan gum solution on chemical absorption of carbon dioxide with diisopropanolamine

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Abstract

Absorption rate of carbon dioxide was measured in the aqueous xanthan gum (XG) solution in the range of 0 ~ 0.15 wt% containing diisopropanolamine (DIPA) of 0 ~ 2 kmol/m³ in a flat-stirred vessel with an impeller of 0.05 m and agitation speed of 50 rpm at 25°C and 101.3 kPa. The volumetric liquid-side mass transfer coefficient (kL,a) of CO₂, which was obtained by the measured physical absorption rate, was correlated with the viscosity and the elastic behavior of XG solution such as Deborah number as an empirical formula. The chemical absorption rate of CO₂ (Rₐ), which was estimated by the film theory using the measured kL,a and the known kinetics of reaction between CO₂ and DIPA, was compared with the measured rate. The aqueous XG solution with elastic property of non-Newtonian liquid made kL,a and Rₐ increased compared with Newtonian liquid based on the same viscosity of the solution.

Keywords: absorption, carbon dioxide, xanthan gum, viscoelastic liquid, diisopropanolamine

1. Introduction

Gas-liquid mass transfer in non-Newtonian liquid is an important example of gas absorption in pseudoplastic flow of industrial processes such as a fermentation broth, slurry, and fluidized bed, et al. (Yagi and Yoshida, 1973; Ranade and Ulbricht, 1978; Nakano and Yoshida, 1980). Variation of the volumetric liquid-phase mass transfer coefficient (kL,a) in gas-dispersed systems consists of the mass transfer coefficient (kₐ) and the specific gas-liquid interfacial area (a). The former could be correlated with Reynolds and Schmidt numbers including liquid viscosity. It is likely that the latter varies not only with Newtonian liquid properties such as surface tension but also with some non-Newtonian and/or viscoelastic fluid properties.

The apparent viscosity of non-Newtonian fluids is not sufficient to obtain a unified correlation for kL,a values in the case of gas absorption into non-Newtonian fluids. Because of the complexities of gas absorption in non-Newtonian media, the correlations obtained by these studies have been limited to just a few kinds of non-Newtonian fluids such as carbopol, carboxymethylcellulose (CMC), polyacrylate (PA), polyethylene oxide (PEO), polyacrylamide (PAA), and polyisobutylene (PIB) solutions. If a considerable reduction of kL,a is due to the viscoelasticity of the aqueous solution, then the extent to which data for an viscoelastic solution, such as PAA, deviate from those for the inelastic solution, such as CMC, should correlate with some measure of the solution’s elasticity. A dimensionless number, such as Deborah number (De), which relates the elastic properties to the process parameters, is used to correlate kL,a with properties of non-Newtonian liquids. Unified correlations have been proposed for kL,a in Newtonian as well as non-Newtonian solutions by introducing the dimensionless term, such as (1 + n₁Deⁿ₂)ⁿ³, which are listed in Table 1. As shown in Table 1, values in the dimensionless group are different one another, and the polymers in Table 1 act as a reduction or increment agent in the absorption rate of gas.

There is little information about the effect that elastic properties have on the absorption of gas accompanied by a chemical reaction in non-Newtonian liquid. Park and coworkers (2003, 2004) presented the effect of elasticity of PIB in the benzene solution and in the w/o (water in oil) emulsion, which is composed of an aqueous alkaline solution as the dispersed phase and a benzene solution as the continuous phase, on the absorption rate of CO₂. Park and coworkers (2005, 2006, 2007a) also measured the absorption rate of CO₂ in aqueous PEO solution with AMP, nanometer sized silica colloid solution with 2-aminoethyl-1-propanol (AMP), and PAA solution with monoethanolamine (MEA), respectively. They showed that the viscoelastic materials, such as PIB, PAA, PEO, and nanometer sized silica influenced the absorption rate of CO₂.

Xanthan gum (XG) is an extracellular heteropolysac-
charide produced by microorganisms of the genus Xanthomonas. Since its first commercial production in 1964, XG has found numerous applications in the food and chemical industries as a thickening agent, stabilizer and emulsifier (Standford and Baird, 1983). Even solutions having a low concentration of XG show high viscosity and insensitivity to changes in temperature, PH and sanitary. XG production usually has been performed in batch fermentation using the bacterium Xanthomonas campestris. The conditions and performance of such fermentations in stirred tank reactors (Herbst, et al., 1992), bubble columns (Pons et al., 1989; Suh et al., 1992) and airlifts (Kessler et al., 1993) have been studied by some researchers. XG fermentation is probably the most complex fermentation process in terms of rheological property variation and associated mixing problems. The changes in viscosity during culture exceed 4 orders of magnitude, which is greater even than that found in high-viscosity polymerization processes in the chemical industry. The change in rheological properties of broths during the course of a batch fermentation leads also to increasing pseudoplasticity, viscoelasticity, and yield stress values. This last characteristic, the yield stress, makes it especially difficult to achieve good mixing because, beyond certain distance from the impeller, the fluid is stagnant. In these stagnant regions where only diffusional mass and heat transfer can occur, the productivity is practically reduced to zero, and mass transfer in stirred tank reactors for XG were related to the geometry of the tank and viscosity of liquid based on the power-law liquid (Galindo and Nienow, 1992). As was reviewed in Song et al. (Song et al., 2006), there exists a relatively large amount of literature published on the rheological properties of both diluted and semi-dilute (or moderately concentrated) XG solutions prepared from aqueous media. However, only a little attention has been given to the effect of rheological properties of XG on mass transfer of a solute in XG media (Vashitz et al., 1988; Vashitz et al., 1989; Garcia-Ochoa and Gomez, 1998). Terasaka and Shibata (2003) presented that $k_L$ of oxygen in XG fermentation of a bubble column was a function of gas hold up, yield stress and diffusivity of oxygen.

Park and coworkers (2007b, 2008a, 2008b) also measured the absorption rate of $\text{CO}_2$ in aqueous XG solution with MEA, AMP, and NaOH, respectively. They explained the effect of the rheological behavior on the absorption rate of $\text{CO}_2$ using Deborah number and showed that the aqueous XG solution of non-Newtonian liquid made the absorption rate of $\text{CO}_2$ increased compared with Newtonian liquid based on the same viscosity of the solution.

In this study, the aqueous XG solution containing diisopropanolamine (DIPA) was used as a absorbent of $\text{CO}_2$, which is one of the series of works (2007b, 2008a, 2008b) to investigate the effect of the rheological behavior of non-Newtonian liquid on the gas absorption. The measured absorption rates of $\text{CO}_2$ were compared with those estimated by the mass transfer mechanism with chemical reaction based on the film theory. The volumetric mass transfer coefficient of $\text{CO}_2$ correlated with Deborah number was used to estimate the physical absorption rate of $\text{CO}_2$ in the aqueous XG solution.

### 2. Theory

The overall reaction between $\text{CO}_2$ (A) and DIPA (B) in aqueous solution is

$$A + vB \rightarrow P$$

(1)

The stoichiometric coefficients (n) in Eq. (1) for DIPA was obtained from the reference (Versteeg and van Swaaij, 1988) and its value was 2.

Species B is a nonvolatile solute, which has been dissolved into the liquid phase prior to its introduction into the gas absorber. It is assumed that gas phase resistance to absorption is negligible by using pure species A, and thus
the concentration of species A at the gas-liquid corresponds to equilibrium with the partial pressure of species A in the bulk gas phase.

The chemical reaction of Eq. (1) is assumed to be second-order (Versteeg and van Swaaij, 1988) as follows:

\[ r_{g} = k_{g} C_{A} C_{B} \]  
(2)

Under the assumptions mentioned above, the mass balances of species A and B based on the film theory with the specific molar flux with a chemical reaction to that without chemical reaction as follows:

\[ D_{A} = \frac{d^{2} C_{A}}{dx^{2}} = k_{g} C_{A} C_{B} \]  
(3)

\[ D_{B} = \frac{d^{2} C_{B}}{dx^{2}} = v K_{b} C_{A} C_{B} \]  
(4)

\[ z = 0, C_{A} = C_{d}, \frac{dC_{A}}{dx} = 0 \]  
(5)

\[ z = z_{1}, C_{A} = 0, C_{B} = C_{b_{0}} \]  
(6)

Eqs. (3) – (6) are put into the dimensionless form as follows:

\[ \frac{d^{2} a}{dx^{2}} = Mab \]  
(7)

\[ \frac{d^{2} b}{dx^{2}} = vrqMab \]  
(8)

\[ x = 0 ; a = 1, \frac{db}{dx} = 0 \]  
(9)

\[ x = 1 ; a = 0, b = 1 \]  
(10)

where \( M = D_{g} K_{b_{0}} / K_{1}^{2} \), \( a = C_{A} / C_{A_{0}} \), \( b = C_{B} / C_{B_{0}} \), \( x = z / z_{1} \), \( q = v C_{A_{0}} C_{B_{0}} r = D_{g}/D_{b} \).

The enhancement factor (\( \beta \)) here is defined as the ratio of the molar flux with a chemical reaction to that without chemical reaction:

\[ \beta = \frac{da}{dx} \]  
(11)

The value of \( a \) is used to predict the absorption rate (\( R_{A} \)) of \( CO_{2} \) with chemical reaction as follows:

\[ R_{A} = \beta R_{A_{0}} = \beta K_{b_{0}} a C_{A} V_{L} \]  
(12)

where \( R_{A_{0}} \) is the physical absorption rate, which is obtained by multiplying the molar flux by the specific contact area between gas and liquid (\( a \)) and the liquid volume (\( V_{L} \)).

3. Experimental

3.1. Chemicals

The xanthan gum sample used in this study is a commercially available product supplied from the Sigma-Aldrich Corporation (St. Louis, MO, USA). An accurate determination of the molecular weight of XG is extremely difficult for several reasons including its relatively high value, the stiffness of a molecule and the presence of aggregates (Song et al., 2006). The weight average molecular weight of our XG is approximately estimated to be \( 2 \times 10^{5} \) kg/kmol (Song et al., 2006). XG is soluble in both cold and hot water. Like most other hydrocolloids, XG needs an intensive agitation upon introduction into an aqueous medium in order to avoid a formation of lumps. In this work, XG solutions with concentrations of 0.05, 0.1, and 0.15 wt% were prepared by slowly adding the required amount of XG powder weighing an electric balance into a known volume of gently agitated medium filled in a glass container, which was maintained at room temperature with constant stirring using a magnetic bar for 24 hr. The preparation procedure was identical to that described elsewhere (Song et al., 2006).

3.2. Absorption rate of \( CO_{2} \)

The agitated absorber used for measurement of the absorption rate of \( CO_{2} \), was constructed of glass (0.102 m inside diameter; 0.151 m in height) with four equally spaced vertical baffles. Straight impeller with 0.05 m in length, 0.017 m in width, and 0.005 m in thickness was used as the liquid phase agitator, and were located at the middle position of the liquid phase of 0.3 dm³. The contact area between the gas and the liquid was measured as 43.2 cm². The absorption rates of \( CO_{2} \) were measured along the procedure similar to those reported elsewhere (Yu et al., 1985) using a semi-batch absorber in the aqueous XG solution of 0~0.015 wt% and DIPA of 0~2.0 kmol/m³ with the impeller speed of 50 rpm at 25°C and 101.3 kPa.

4. Physicochemical and rheological properties

The physicochemical and rheological properties in the \( CO_{2}-XG-DIPA \) system, which are used to solve the simultaneous differential equations of Eq. (7) and (8), are obtained as follows:

4.1. Physicochemical properties of carbon dioxide and DIPA in aqueous XG solution

Solubility (\( C_{\text{sol}} \)) of \( CO_{2} \) in the aqueous XG solutions was obtained using the pressure measuring method, which measured the pressure difference of \( CO_{2} \) before and after equilibrium in the gas and liquid phases, similar to the procedure reported elsewhere (Kennard and Meisen, 1984) at 25°C and 101.3 kPa. The detailed experimental procedure was reported in our earlier work (Park et al., 2007b).

Density of the aqueous XG solution was measured within 0.1 kg/m³ by weighing with a pycnometer (Fisher Scientific Co., USA); it was identical within experimental
accuracy to the density of water.

The apparent viscosity of aqueous XG solution was measured with Brookfield viscometer (Brookfield Eng. Lab. Inc., USA).

Diffusivity \( (D_A) \) of CO\(_2\) in the aqueous XG solution was estimated from the following equation (Cussler, 1984) corrected with viscosity of the aqueous colloidal silica solution.

\[
D_A = D_{AW} \left( \frac{\mu_W}{\mu} \right)^{2/3} \tag{13}
\]

Diffusivity \( (D_B) \) of DIPA in aqueous amine solution was obtained from assumption that the ratio of \( D_B \) to \( D_A \) was equal to the ratio in water (Nijsing et al., 1959). The diffusivity of CO\(_2\) and DIPA in water at 25°C were taken as \( 1.97 \times 10^{-9} \) m\(^2\)/s (Hikita et al., 1976) and \( 7.71 \times 10^{-10} \) m\(^2\)/s (Danckwerts and Sharma, 1966), respectively.

The reaction rate constant \( (k_2) \) between the reaction of CO\(_2\) and DIPA at 25°C was taken as 2780 m\(^3\)/kmol·s (Versteeg and van Swaaij, 1988).

The obtained values of solubility, diffusivity of CO\(_2\), density, and apparent viscosity of the aqueous XG solution are given in Table 2.

### 4.2. Rheological properties of the aqueous XG solution

We assume that a power-law model, which has been widely used for shear-dependent viscosity, can represent the non-Newtonian flow behavior of the aqueous XG solution:

\[
\tau = K' \gamma^n \tag{14}
\]

\[
\mu = K' \gamma^{n-1} \tag{15}
\]

\[
N_i = A \gamma^b \tag{16}
\]

where \( n, K, b, \) and \( A \) are material parameters that depend on the temperature. These parameters were obtained from the measurement of \( \tau \) and \( N_i \) for the change of \( \gamma \) by using a parallel disk type rheometer (Ares, Rheometrics, U.S.A.), whose diameter is 0.05 m and gap, 0.001 m.

The obtained values of \( K, n, A \) and \( b \) in the aqueous XG solution of various XG concentration are listed in Table 2. The values of \( A \) increased upon increasing the XG concentration, which means that the aqueous XG solution has an elastic behavior (Ranade and Ulbrecht, 1978).

One of the parameters used frequently to represent the characteristics of viscoelasticity is known as the material’s characteristic relaxation time \( (\lambda) \) of the liquid defined as

\[
\lambda = \frac{N_i}{\mu \gamma^n} \tag{17}
\]

Using Eq. (14) and (16), this expression is rearranged as

\[
\lambda = \frac{A \gamma^{b-n-1}}{K} \tag{18}
\]

One of dimensionless numbers, which relates the elastic properties with the process parameters, is Deborah number \( (De) \), defined as ratio of the material’s characteristic relaxation time to the characteristic flow time. The characteristic flow time is measured against a characteristic process time \( (t) \), which is related to the reciprocal of the agitation speed \( (N) \) of impeller in case of stirred tanks, and \( De \) is derived as follows:

\[
De = \frac{\lambda}{t} = \frac{A \gamma^{b-n-1} N}{K} \tag{19}
\]

where shear rate \( (\gamma) \) is obtained in case of the agitation of liquid in a cylindrical vessel as follows (Metzner and Otter, 1957):

\[
\gamma = 4 \pi N / n \tag{20}
\]

### 5. Results and discussion

#### 5.1. Empirical correlation of volumetric liquid-Side mass transfer coefficient of CO\(_2\)

To observe the effect of XG concentration on the physical absorption rate \( (R_{Ao}) \) and volumetric mass transfer coefficient \( (k_{L,a}) \) of CO\(_2\), \( R_{Ao} \) were measured in the aqueous XG solutions in the range of XG concentrations of 0~0.15 wt%, and \( k_{L,a} \) were obtained using \( R_{Ao} \) and \( C_{Ai} \) in Table 2. \( R_{Ao} \) and \( k_{L,a} \) were plotted against the XG concentrations as circles in Fig. 1 and 2, respectively.

As shown in Fig. 1 and 2, \( R_{Ao} \) and \( k_{L,a} \) decrease with
increasing XG concentration. These results may be due to increase of viscosity by increase of XG concentration. The solid line 4 in Fig. 2 was the $k_L a$, which was obtained using an empirical formula correlated with the rheological behavior of XG solution, which will be shown later. The solid line in Fig. 1 was the $R_{Ao}$ obtained using the $k_L a$ calculated from the empirical formula.

It is customary to express the influence that the viscosity has upon the mass transfer coefficient in terms of the Schmidt number, defined as $\mu/\rho D_A$, in which the viscosity is related to the diffusion coefficient. As shown in Table 2, the diffusivity of CO$_2$ in the aqueous XG solution did not vary significantly from that in water, and, thus, the use of a dimensionless Schmidt number is not warranted. Instead, the ratio of viscosity of aqueous XG solution to that of water (Sandall and Patel, 1970) was used to correlation with $k_L a$, because the viscosity in the agitated vessel depends on the rheological properties, as shown in Eq. (14) through Eq. (20).

Based on the literature (Cussler, 1984), which shows that an increase in the viscosity of liquid results in a reduction of $k_L a$, one is suggested to correlate $k_L a$ in aqueous XG solution with that in water as follows:

$$k_{L,a} = \frac{\mu_{w}}{\mu} \left( \frac{\mu_{w}}{\mu} \right)^{\frac{n}{3}}$$  \hspace{1cm} (21)

where 1 or 2/3 is frequently used as $n_1$ of a Newtonian liquid.

The values of $k_{L,a}$ are calculated from Eq. (21) against various XG concentrations for $n_1$ of 1 and 2/3, respectively, and plotted as solid line 1 and 2 in Fig. 2. As shown in Fig. 2, there is a great difference between the calculated $k_{L,a}$ (line 1 and 2) and measured $k_{L,a}$, respectively; correlation coefficient of line 1 compared with the measured $k_{L,a}$ is 2.049, and that of line 2, 1.747. This means that the aqueous XG solution in this study does not follow the behavior of a Newtonian liquid.

To investigate the effect of the XG solution on the $k_{L,a}$, the values of $De$, which were obtained using Eq. (19) and the rheological properties in Table 2, were plotted against the XG concentration in Fig. 3.

As shown in Fig. 3, $De$ increase with increasing XG con-
centation. This means that the aqueous XG solution has a rheological behavior and the viscoelasticity of XG solution increases with increasing the XG concentration. Therefore, to reduce the deviation of \( k_a \) for line 1 and 2 from the measured \( k_a \) as shown in Fig. 2, new terms, corrected with viscosity and \( D_e \), were used as follows:

A simple multiple regression exercise using \( D_e \) in Eq. (22) was tried for the plots of \( k_a \) combined with the new terms such as \( \left( \frac{\mu}{\mu_w} \right)^{0.33} (1 + n_1 D_e^{0.828}) \) against XG concentration, which gave the values of \( n_1, n_2, \) and \( n_3 \) of 0.33, 0.541, and 0.828, respectively. A multiple regression analysis provides the following correlation:

\[
k_{ia} = k_{i,a0} \left( \frac{\mu}{\mu_w} \right)^{0.33} (1 + 0.541 D_e^{0.828})
\]

(22)

The values of \( k_{i,a} \) are calculated by Eq. (22) and shown as line 4 in Fig. 2. As shown in Fig. 2, the agreement between the measured \( k_a \) and calculated \( k_{i,a} \) from Eq. (22) is very good with correlation coefficient of 0.996. Also, as shown in Eq. (22), \( k_{i,a} \) is affected by both viscosity and elasticity, and it is decreased upon increasing XG concentration. From the work of Yagi and Yoshida (1975), Ranade and Ulbrecht (1978), and Moo-Young and Kawase (1987), it may be concluded that the exponent \( m \) in the relationship \( k_{i,a} \sim \mu^m \) for stirred tanks is between 0.35 and 0.6. When our data were analyzed by Eq. (22) for the overall effect of viscosity on the \( k_{i,a} \), it comes out as \( k_{i,a} \sim \mu^{-0.33} \), which compares well with the findings of Yagi and Yoshida (1975) of \( \mu^{-0.4} \) and Ranade and Ulbrecht (1978) of \( \mu^{-0.41} \), and Moo-Young and Kawase (1987) of \( \mu^{-0.38} \). As a result in Fig. 2, the deviation of plots of \( k_{i,a} \) against XG concentration can be eliminated by incorporating \( D_e \) into the correlation.

5.2. Effect of Rheological Properties on the \( k_{i,a} \) of CO\(_2\)

Because \( k_{i,a} \) is affected by both of viscosity and elasticity of the aqueous XG solution as shown in Eq. (22), \( k_{i,a} \) are estimated according to the kinds of the solutions, i.e., water, the aqueous XG solution without elasticity, and solution with elasticity, and presented as water line, line 3, and line 4 as shown in Fig. 2, respectively. Water line has \( \mu \) of \( \mu_w \) and \( D_e \) of 0, line 3 has \( \mu \) of that in aqueous XG solution and \( D_e \) of 0, and line 4 has \( \mu \) of that in aqueous XG solution with elasticity and \( D_e \) of some value > 0. The aqueous XG solution without elasticity (\( D_e = 0 \)) is an imaginary solution, which is assumed to be a Newtonian liquid with the same viscosity as that of the actual XG solution with elasticity. As shown in Fig. 2, the \( k_{i,a} \) decreases in water line, line 4, and line 3 order. In general, the mass transfer coefficient in the solution is inversely proportional to the viscosity. The viscosity of water is smaller than that of the aqueous XG solution as listed in Table 2, and then, \( k_{i,a} \) in water is larger than that in the aqueous XG solution. If the aqueous XG solution in this study would have only viscous behavior, the \( k_{i,a} \) should be the \( k_{i,a} \) represented as the line 3. But, the actual \( k_{i,a} \) of the line 4 is larger than that of the line 3. The increase of \( k_{i,a} \) from the line 3 to the line 4 might be attributed to the elasticity of the aqueous XG solution. In other words, the aqueous XG solution used in this study might play the part of increasing agent of \( k_{i,a} \) based on the same viscosity of the solution.

5.3. Effect of Rheological Properties on the chemical absorption of CO\(_2\)

To investigate the effect of elasticity of XG solution on the chemical absorption rate of CO\(_2\), the absorption rate (\( R_A \)) of CO\(_2\) into aqueous XG solution containing DIPA was measured against XG concentration in the range 0–0.15 wt% at DIPA concentration in the range of 0–2 kmol/m\(^3\) at the agitation speed of 50 rev/min and the impeller size of 0.05 m. Fig. 4 shows the plots of the absorption rate of CO\(_2\) against XG concentration for various DIPA concentrations.

As shown in Fig. 5, \( R_A \) increases with increasing DIPA concentration and decreases with increasing XG concentration. Increase of \( R_A \) with increasing DIPA concentration is due to the reactant of DIPA in reaction of CO\(_2\). Decrease of \( R_A \) with increasing XG concentration is explained from the dependences of \( k_{i,a}, \beta, \) and \( C_{i,a} \) on XG concentration as flows:

Because \( k_{i,a} \) decrease with increasing XG concentration as shown in Fig. 2, \( R_A \) decrease with increasing XG concentration.

The values of \( C_{i,a} \) in the aqueous XG solution decrease with increasing XG concentration, but, they do not vary significantly from that in water, as shown in Table 2. The measured and calculated values of \( k_i \) were obtained
Effect of the rheological properties of aqueous xanthan gum solution on chemical absorption of carbon dioxide with diisopropanolamine

using the measured \(k_{La}\) and calculated \(k_{La}\) from the empirical formula of Eq. (22), respectively, and plotted against the XG concentration as circle and solid line in Fig. 5.

As shown in Fig. 5, \(k_{La}\) decreases with increasing XG concentration. The calculated value of \(\beta\) was obtained from Eq. (11) and solutions of Eq. (7) and (8) with the known parameters, such as, \(k_{La}\), \(D_A\), \(D_{Bo}\), \(k_a\), and \(C_{Ai}\) at given concentrations of XG and DIPA. Eq. (7) and (8) were solved by the finite element method of FEMLAB\(^\text{®}\). The measured values of \(\beta\) were obtained as the ratio of \(R_A\) to \(R_{Ao}\). The measured and calculated values of \(\beta\) were plotted against the XG concentration in Fig. 6 as marks and solid lines, respectively.

As shown in Eq. (12) using \(k_{La}\) of water line, line 3, and line 4 in Fig. 2, respectively, are plotted as a dotted, solid, and dashed line against DIPA concentration at a typical XG concentration of 0.1 wt% in Fig. 7. The triangle and circle are the measured values in water and XG solution.

As shown in Fig. 7, \(R_A\) increase in water, XG solution, and imaginary solution order. Same trends were obtained in the other two XG concentrations of 0.05 and 0.15 wt%. If the aqueous XG solution in this study would have only viscous behavior, \(R_A\) should be \(R_{Aa}\) represented as the dashed line. But, the actual \(R_A\) of the solid line is larger than that of the dashed line. The increase of \(R_A\) from the dashed line to the solid line might be attributed to the elasticity of the aqueous XG solution, whose trend is as same as the trend of \(k_{La}\) as shown in Fig. 2.
6. Conclusions

The physical and chemical absorption rates of carbon dioxide were measured into the aqueous XG solution of 0–0.15 wt% with DIPA of 0–2 kmol/m² in a flat-stirred vessel with 0.05 m size and 50 rpm of agitation speeds of impeller at 25°C and 101.3 kPa.

The value of \( k_{l,a} \) was correlated with an empirical formula having the rheological behavior of XG solution such as Deborah number as follow:

\[
k_{l,a} = k_{l,a} \left( \frac{\mu}{\mu_w} \right)^{0.33} (1 + 0.541 \text{De}^{0.828})
\]

The chemical absorption rate was estimated from the mass balance accompanied by chemical reaction based on the film theory using the value of \( k_{l,a} \). Acceleration of \( k_{l,a} \) and the absorption rate according to increase of XG concentration was explained by the elastic properties of the aqueous XG solution.

**Nomenclature**

- \( a \) : specific gas-liquid area(m²/m³)
- \( C_i \) : concentration of species, \( i \) (kmol/m³)
- \( d \) : diameter of impeller(m)
- \( D_i \) : diffusivity of species, \( i \) (m²/s)
- \( k_r \) : reaction rate constant in reaction (1) (m³/kmol·s)
- \( k_w \) : liquid-side mass transfer coefficient of CO₂ in absorbent (m/s)
- \( N_l \) : primary normal stress difference(kg/m·s²)
- \( V_L \) : volume of the liquid phase(m³)
- \( r_A \) : reaction rate in Equation (2)(kmol/m²·s)
- \( R_A \) : chemical absorption rate of CO₂(kmol/s)
- \( R_{ba} \) : physical absorption rate of CO₂(kmol/s)
- \( T \) : temperature(K)
- \( XG \) : xanthan gum
- \( z \) : diffusion coordinate of CO₂ (m)
- \( z_f \) : film thickness(m)

**Greek letters**

- \( \beta \) : enhancement factor of absorption rate by the chemical reaction
- \( \gamma \) : shear rate(1/s)
- \( \mu \) : viscosity of liquid(N·s/m²)
- \( \mu_w \) : viscosity of water(N·s/m²)
- \( \rho \) : density of liquid(kg/m³)
- \( \tau \) : shear stress(N/m²)

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Effect of the rheological properties of aqueous xanthan gum solution on chemical absorption of carbon dioxide with diisopropanolamine


