Cyclic Oxidation of Piperazine

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Amine Oxidation

- Free radical reaction with O₂ catalyzed by dissolved metals [1]
 - PZ: stable at absorber conditions, oxidizes in cyclic systems [2]
- Most significant cause of amine solvent loss in pilot plants [3]
 Increases solvent make-up cost (~\$1-3/MT CO₂) [4]
 - Degradation product accumulation
 - Heat stable salt (HSS: formate, etc.) \uparrow = viscosity \uparrow = W_{EQ} \uparrow
 - Increased toxicity
 - Additional solvent loss due to reclaiming process
 - Volatile emissions (ammonia, aldehydes, amine fragments)
 - Nitrosamine accumulation
 - 1° and 3° amines form stable 2° amine degradation products from degradation [5]

High Temperature Oxidation Reactor (HTOR)



Contained in fume hood with spill containers

Dissolved Oxygen Stripping



PZ loss in the HTOR



Steady state oxidation of clean 8 m PZ (no N₂ sparging) Ammonia emissions







PZ oxidation in HTOR with continuous N₂ sparging (HTOR15) Ammonia emissions HTOR8 0.9 No N₂ sparging 0.8 N₂ Sparger Off 0.7 0.6 0.6 0.7 0.4 0.4 0.3 On



MNPZ decomposition \rightarrow oxidation products



MNPZ decomposition \rightarrow oxidation products





Iron solubility correlated to solvent degradation



Conclusions

- Oxidation of clean PZ in the HTOR reduced by 90% by N₂ sparging to remove dissolved oxygen
 - Degraded PZ continued to oxidize with N₂ sparging due to accumulation of nonvolatile oxidation carriers (Fe²⁺, aldehydes, amides, etc.)
 - Solvent reclaiming to minimize accumulation recommended
- Ammonia production increases linearly over time as clean solvent accumulates intermediary degradation products and iron
- Nitrosamine degradation will result in oxidation product accumulation
 - 1.5 moles of ammonia produced per mole of NO₂ absorbed
 - NO₂ prescrubbing potentially critical to minimize degradation product accumulation
- Iron solubility in PZ correlated to cumulative solvent contamination
- Nickel, chromium, and manganese accumulation do not catalyze PZ oxidation

References

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[6] Nielsen PT, Le L, Rochelle GT. "Piperazine degradation in pilot plants." *Energy Proc.* 2013;37:1912–1923

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Questions?





Cumulative NH₃ emissions strongly correlated with total formate accumulation





[6; 7]

Ammonia rate is correlated with dissolved iron accumulation in pilot plants





[6; 7]

NH₃ vs Fe²⁺ in HTOR



Effect of stripper temperature



MNPZ Degradation



2-PZOH and EDA in pilot plants



HTOR Apparatus



Inhibitors in HTOR (MEA oxidation)



Figure 8.13: Effect of inhibitors of ammonia production from 7 m MEA oxidation in the HTCS with 2% CO₂ in air cycling from 55 to 120 °C. Metals added (mM): 0.4 Fe²⁺, 0.1 Mn²⁺, 0.1 Ni²⁺, 0.05 Cr³⁺ Voice, 2014

Iron-MEA Complex



PZ does not form complex?

Oxidation: Electron abstraction



Oxidation: Electron abstraction





Cyclic aldehydes and imines

Voice, 2014; LePaumier 2009; da Silva, 2012

Oxidation: Hydrogen abstraction



Sexton, 2008

31



PZ Oxidation







Amine reacts (S_N 2) with protonated formaldehyde to form iminium salt, reduced to methylamine in presence of formate. Formate oxidized to CO₂

Requires oxidative environment to produce aldehyde, reducing environment to make methyl-PZ. Only forms in cyclic systems. In LGF: PZ + formaldehyde produces polymer foam

1-MPZ is significantly more volatile than PZ, may represent an emissions concern. MPZ:PZ 40x greater in water wash samples

Viscosity increase due to HSS accumulation

