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INFLUENCE OF THE CRYSTALLIZATION RATE ON THE FORMATION OF GAS HYDRATES FROM CH_4 - C_3H_8 GAS MIXTURES AND EXTENSION TO OTHER MIXTURES

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In this study, we present details on two different experimental procedures to form mixed hydrates. They are applied to measure the volume and composition of the crystallized hydrate from CH4-C3H8 gas mixtures at high and low crystallization rate, respectively. The results obtained from both methods reveal a difference in composition, final pressure and volume between the two procedures (quick and slow crystallization). Furthermore, this work aims at contributing to the global understanding of the coupling between kinetics and thermodynamics to provide some insight in the composition of the gas hydrate phase during its crystallization from an aqueous liquid and a mixed gas phase. In addition, we face new experimental facts that open questioning after comparing the modelling of clathrate hydrates following the classical approach (van der Waals and Platteeuw, 1959).



GAS HYDRATES FORMATION



2 – Hydrate structure



Clathrate hydrate structuresSISIISIIImage: Signal structuresImage: Signal structuresImage: Signal structuresImage: Signal structuresImage: Signal structuresSignal structuresImage: Signal structuresImage: Signal structures

3–Clathrate hydrate



- > The cavity formed by water molecules linked by hydrogen bonds
- > The cavities contain gas molecules

Conclusions

> The cavities are stabilized by Van der Waals forces

MINES

Saint-Étienne

TOTAL

GasHyDyn

Centre



| (a)The number of oxygen atom per cavity | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------|------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Coordination number ^a | 20 | 24 | 20 | 28 | 20 | 20 | 36 |
| Average cavity radius (Å) | 3,95 | 4,33 | 3,91 | 4,73 | 3,91 ^c | 4,06 ^c | 5,71 ^c |
| Number per unit cell (m _j) | 2 | 6 | 16 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Description | 5'2 | 51262 | 512 | 51264 | 512 | 43565 | 51260 |

Experimental procedure and set-up



COMPARING: Results from procedure at high driving force AND procedure at low driving force



✓ Hydrate equilibria are given (T, P, gas and hydrate compositions) following two procedures.

✓ The two procedures used (high and low crystallization rates) highlight the kinetic effect on hydrate formation.

 \checkmark The most interesting observation is the comparison between the two procedures from the same initial conditions (same pressure, temperature, mass of water and gas mixture). The Pressures are different at each equilibrium point (temperature uncertainty ±0.5 °C, pressure uncertainty ± 0.1 bar). Figure 1 illustrates these observations.