

# Kinetic Study of the Chlorination of Gallium Oxide

J.A. GONZÁLEZ, O.D. QUIROGA, and M. DEL C. RUIZ

The kinetics of the chlorination of gallium oxide in chlorine atmosphere was studied between 650 °C and 800 °C. The calculations of the Gibbs standard free energy variation with temperature for the reaction  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3(\text{s}) + 3\text{Cl}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow 2\text{GaCl}_3(\text{g}) + 1.5\text{O}_2(\text{g})$  show that direct chlorination is favorable above 850 °C. Thermogravimetric experiments were performed under isothermal and nonisothermal conditions. The effect of temperature, gas flow rate, and  $\text{Cl}_2$  partial pressure were studied. The solids were characterized by X-ray diffraction (XRD) and scanning electronic microscopy (SEM). The nonisothermal results showed that chlorination of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  starts at approximately 650 °C, with a mass loss of 50 pct at 850 °C. The isothermal results between 650 °C and 800 °C indicated that the reaction rate increased with temperature. The correlation of the experimental data with different solid-gas reaction models showed that the results are adequately represented by the model proposed by Shieh and Lee:  $X = 1 - \{1 - b_{22}[b_{21}t + e^{-b_{21}t} - 1]\}^{1/(1-\gamma)}$ . From this model, it was found that the rate of reaction for the chlorination of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  is of the order 0.68 with respect to  $\text{Cl}_2$  and the activation energy is 113.23 kJ/mol. On the other hand, the order of the activation rate of the interface surface is 0.111 with respect to  $\text{Cl}_2$  and its activation energy is 23.81 kJ/mol.

## I. INTRODUCTION

THE intensive use of metals in modern industry has led to the progressive exhaustion of primary metals, thus creating a need to use alternative sources such as industrial wastes, low grade minerals/ores, and polymetallic ores. Likewise, the exploitation of such sources requires the updating and development of processes that allow for maximum use of resources.

The advances in the development of materials with applications on a variety of fields ranging from medicine to space navigation has made it necessary to obtain high-purity metals. Although there exist a number of methods for the production of high-purity metals, liquid-liquid extraction from metallic halides in solution and the distillation of chlorides are the two most widely used techniques. In both cases, the obtainment of metallic halides constitutes the first stage in the process. One of the most widely used techniques for this stage is previous chlorination of materials such as metals, ores, metallic oxides, or industrial wastes.<sup>[1]</sup>

The use of chlorination in metal extractive procedures, by means of pyro- and hydrometallurgic methods, has attracted attention in recent decades and the use of chlorine chemistry may increase in the future. This is due to a number of factors, which include the high chlorination rates resulting from the elevated reactivity of  $\text{Cl}_2$  and other chlorinating agents; the comparatively moderate temperature involved in the chlorination process; the low cost, variety, and availability of chlorinating agents; the favorable physical and

chemical characteristics of certain metals; the properties of many chlorides (high solubility, wide variety of oxidation states, and ease of separation by liquid-liquid extraction or distillation); the selectivity of the treatment and separation processes; and the development of certain corrosion-resistant materials used for the manufacture of reactors.<sup>[2]</sup> On the other hand, the wastes from chlorination processes can be conveniently treated for the recovery of toxic materials, prior to their final disposal. The  $\text{Cl}_2$  and chlorides in effluents can be easily dissolved in water or precipitated and subsequently recycled in the same unit, or they can be used for other purposes.

Gallium is present in nature in small amounts, usually associated with the ores of other common elements. It was discovered in the zinc ore blende in 1875. In 1896, it was found in bauxite, and it is also present in coal fly ashes. Gallium was initially obtained by electrodeposition on a mercury cathode, followed by cementation using sodium amalgam or by selective carbonization. This process has been currently discontinued due to environmental reasons. The current production of gallium comes mainly from the aluminum industry; however, in many alumina producing plants, much of the gallium originally present in bauxite and that not dissolved during aluminum extraction is discharged in the Bayer process residues, which constitute a potential source of gallium. In addition, since zinc ores also constitute a significant source of gallium and indium, both metals can be recovered from Zn leaching residues.<sup>[3,4,5]</sup>

Chaves *et al.*<sup>[5]</sup> studied the use of resins in the recovery of Ga as a byproduct of the Brazilian Zn and Al industries. Nishihama *et al.* investigated the recovery of Ga and In from zinc refinery residues, by liquid-liquid extraction using D2EHPA, obtaining 98.9 and 87.9 pct efficiency for In and Ga, respectively.<sup>[6]</sup> Nakayama and Egawa investigated the recovery of Ga from Bayer solutions containing large amounts of Al, using Kelex-100-loaded ion-exchange resin.<sup>[7]</sup> The production of high-purity Ga, In, and Cd for electronic applications has been studied by Ohwa *et al.*, using a chloride refining process.<sup>[8]</sup>

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Gallium is a material of vital importance for the manufacturing of semiconductors, and, in the future, efficient recycling processes will be needed for the recovery of these metals. It is particularly important to pursue research that permits recovery of Ga and In from electronic devices containing compounds such as GaAs, InGaAs, and InP, among others. The use of chlorination for the recovery of these metals is currently under investigation in Europe, Japan, and the United States,<sup>[9]</sup> due to the above-mentioned advantages of this technology as compared to other metal recovery methods.

In this work, we studied the chlorination of pure gallium oxide in chlorine atmosphere, in order to know the effect of different variables upon the system reactivity and to propose a mechanism and a kinetic reaction model that explains the experimental data and contributes to the understanding of the chlorination of gallium containing materials.

## II. THERMODYNAMIC CONSIDERATIONS

The global reaction involved in this process is



The reactants are a solid and a gas, and the obtained products are all fluids, since  $\text{GaCl}_3$  is a gas above 270 °C. The thermodynamic calculations were performed using HSC chemistry for Windows.<sup>[10]</sup> The variation of Gibbs standard free energy (kJ/mol  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$ ) for Reaction [1] as a function of temperature (deg Celsius) occurs according to

$$\Delta G^\circ = 168.584 - 19.39 \cdot 10^{-2} T \quad [2]$$

From Eq. [2],  $\Delta G^\circ$  is positive at low temperatures, and takes negative values at temperatures above 870 °C.

Figure 1 shows the phase stability diagram for the Ga-O-Cl system at 680 °C and 780 °C. The values for the partial pressures of species  $\text{GaCl}_3$  (g) and  $\text{O}_2$  (g) calculated in pure  $\text{Cl}_2$  atmosphere were 0.310 and 0.232 atm at 680 °C and 0.645 and 0.489 atm at 780 °C, respectively. These calculations and phase stability diagrams were obtained using the data in Reference 10. According to these diagrams, gallium oxide can react with chlorine at those temperatures, and, under the conditions of this study, the only chlorination product is  $\text{GaCl}_3$ .

## III. EXPERIMENTAL

### A. Materials

The chlorination experiments were performed using  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$ , Fluka AG, 99.99 pct purity. The results of scanning electron microscopy (SEM) analysis are shown in Figures 2(a) through (c). As seen in Figure 2(a) the particle sizes are between 1 and 200  $\mu\text{m}$  and exhibit varied morphology including very small lentil-shaped particles forming large conglomerates, and elongated particles approximately 200- $\mu\text{m}$  long. Figure 2(b) shows a conglomerate of small particles, and the flat surface of some larger particles. Figure 2(c) shows the surface of a conglomerate of small particles.

Figure 3 shows the diffractogram of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$ , and it can be seen that the solid is crystalline and matches the JCPDS 41-1103 file,<sup>[11]</sup> which corresponds to a monocyclic structure  $C2/m$ .

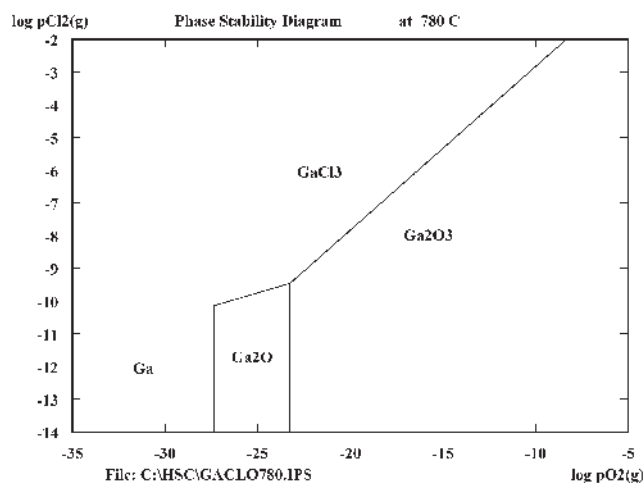
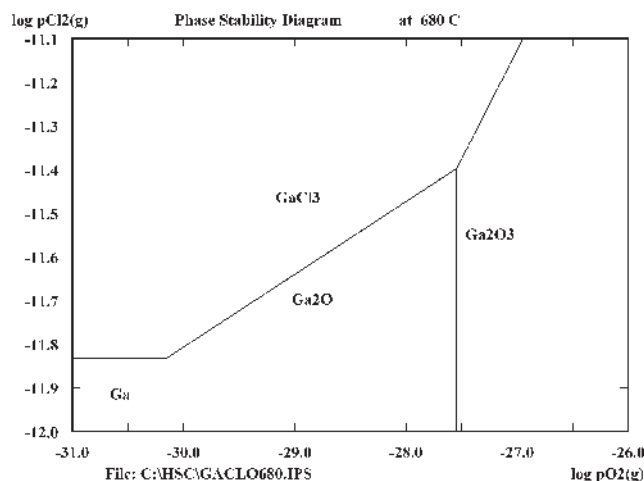


Fig. 1—Diagram of phase stability for the Ga-O-Cl system at 680 °C and 780 °C.

The gases used were 99.9 pct pure chlorine (Indupa, Argentina) and 99.9 pct pure nitrogen (A.G.A., Argentina).

### B. Experimental Equipment and Procedure

The equipment used for the chlorination assays is shown in Figure 4. Isothermal and nonisothermal experiments were performed, studying the effect of temperature, the reaction time, and the chlorine flow and partial pressure.

Since the chlorination products are volatile in the studied temperature range, the course of the reaction was followed measuring the mass changes of the sample in each experimental assay. To do this, the masses of the sample and sample holder were previously determined and the mass of the residue was determined after each experiment so as to know the mass changes as a function of each studied variable.

For the isothermal assays, a sample of known mass, approximately 70 mg, was supported on a quartz crucible and placed into the reaction zone, under  $\text{N}_2$  flow, until reaching the working temperature. The temperature of the reaction was obtained placing the thermocouple on the solid sample bed. Once the conditions selected for the experiment had been set, the three-way valves were turned so

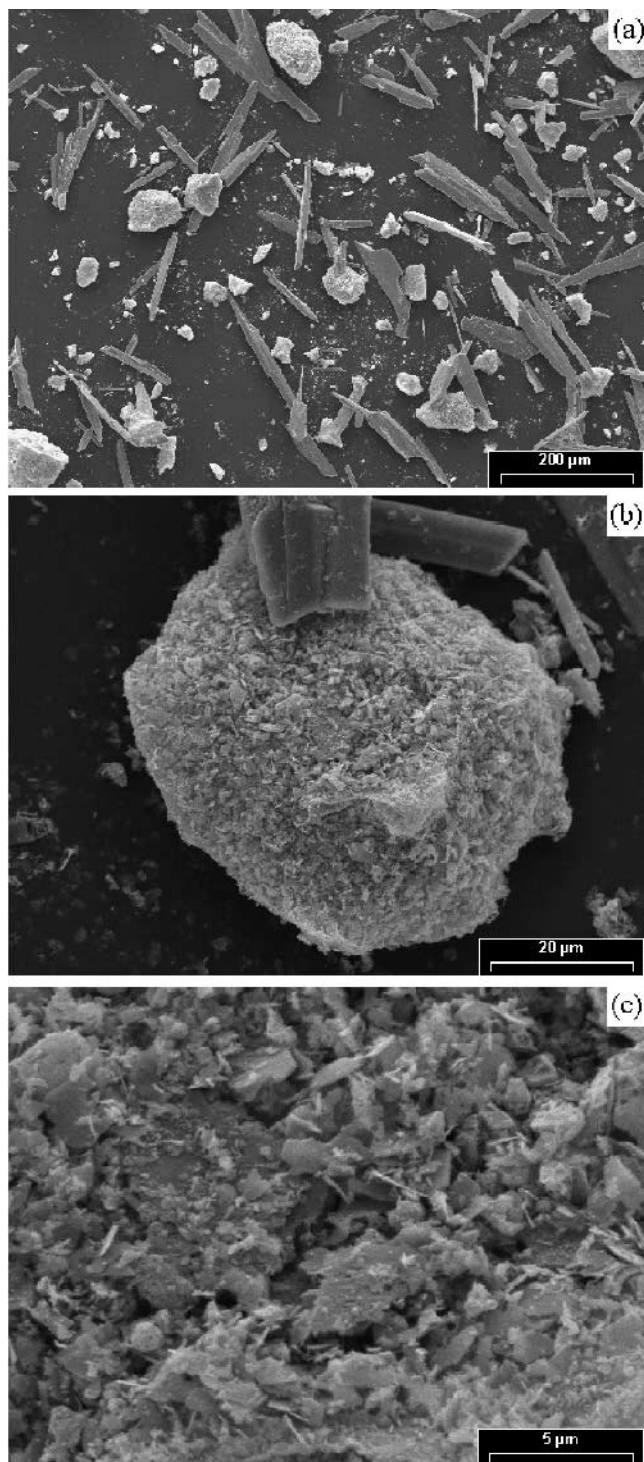


Fig. 2—Morphology of the  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  particles: (a) overall view, (b) morphology of particles of different sizes, and (c) superficial appearance of a conglomerate.

that  $\text{N}_2$  was sent to venting and pure  $\text{Cl}_2$  or the  $\text{Cl}_2$ - $\text{N}_2$  mixture was let into the reactor. At that point, the starting time was recorded. After the reaction time, the reactor was purged with  $\text{N}_2$  current. The total flow of gas was always 100 mL/min. The residue remaining in the crucible was cooled and weighed in order to determine sample mass changes.

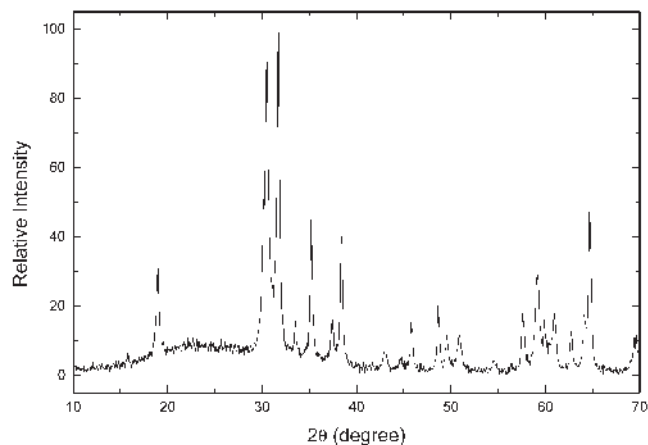


Fig. 3—X-ray diffractogram of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$ .

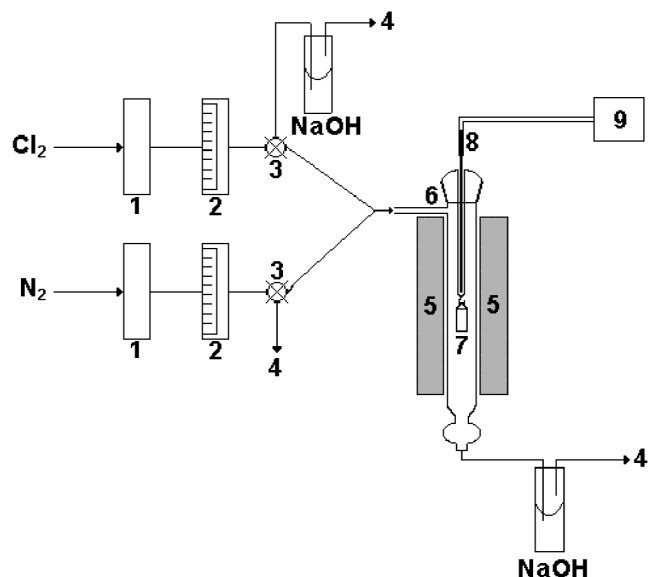


Fig. 4—Diagram of the experimental equipment: (1) drying units, (2) flowmeters, (3) three-way valves, (4) venting, (5) furnace, (6) quartz reactor, (7) quartz crucible, (8) thermocouple, and (9) temperature control unit.

For the nonisothermal experiments, sample chlorination was performed at a set temperature and for a fixed time of 10 minutes. Once the assay had finished, the reactor was purged with  $\text{N}_2$  and the sample was weighed. Subsequently, chlorination was repeated at a higher temperature. The same flow and mass conditions as in isothermal experiments were used. The temperature increase between each point was 50 °C.

The mass loss suffered by the sample during nonisothermal experiments was expressed as mass loss percent,  $\Delta m$  pct, according to the following equation:

$$\Delta m \text{ pct} = \frac{m_f - m^\circ}{m^\circ} * 100 \quad [3]$$

The results of isothermal experiments were expressed as fraction of conversion of the solid reagent, defined as

$$X = \frac{m^\circ - m_f}{m^\circ} \quad [4]$$

where  $m^o$  and  $m_f$  stand for the initial and final masses of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$ , respectively.

## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Nonisothermal Chlorination

The experimental results of nonisothermal chlorination are shown in Figure 5. As can be observed from this figure, the mass loss of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  in  $\text{Cl}_2$  by direct chlorination starts at about 650 °C, reaching 50 pct mass loss at 850 °C. The mass loss in  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere is negligible in the analyzed temperature range.

### B. Effect of Temperature and Reaction Time

The effect of temperature and reaction time on the chlorination of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  was studied in the intervals between 680 °C and 800 °C and 2.5 and 150 minutes, respectively. The upper and lower limits were selected considering the results of nonisothermal chlorination, so that the mass changes of the samples during the reaction could be appreciated.

The results of isothermal chlorination (Figure 6) show that the reaction rate increases with temperature, and also

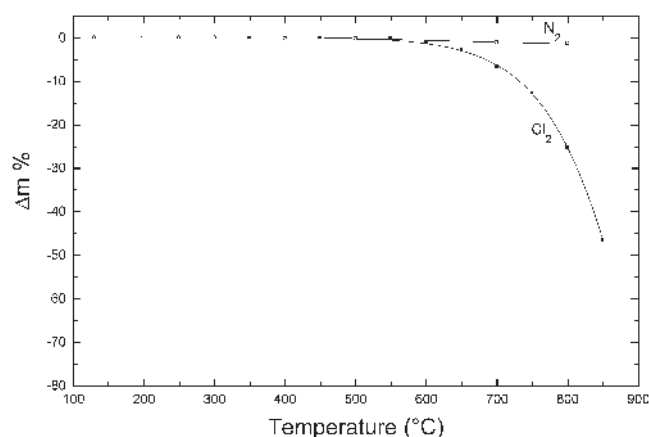


Fig. 5—Nonisothermal chlorination of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  in  $\text{N}_2$  and  $\text{Cl}_2$  atmospheres.

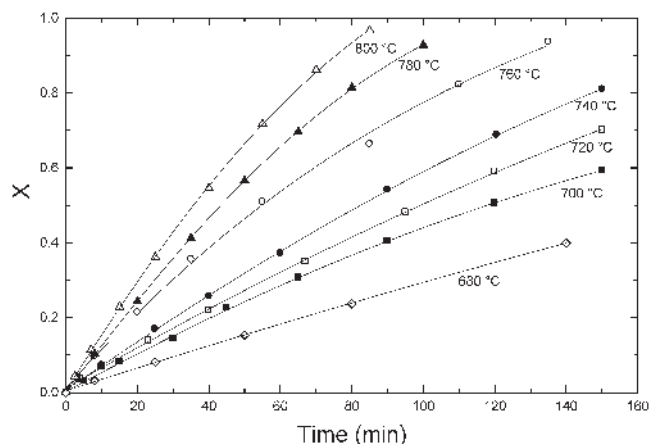


Fig. 6—Chlorination of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  at different temperatures.

that the conversion of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  is practically total at 800 °C and 90 minutes reaction time.

### C. Effect of Chlorine Flow and Partial Pressure

The study of the effect of the chlorine flow rate was performed in an interval between 40 and 170 mL/min. There were no appreciable changes in  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  conversion in the studied range. The effect of the feed composition on the chlorination of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  was studied at 780 °C, using  $\text{N}_2$  as a diluent and a total flow of 100 mL/min.  $\text{Cl}_2$  partial pressures of 0.3, 0.5, 0.8, and 1 atmosphere were investigated. As shown in Figure 7, the experimental results indicate an appreciable variation of the system reactivity with  $\text{Cl}_2$  partial pressure.

### D. Characterization of the Reaction Residues

The results of SEM analysis of the residues of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  chlorination are shown in Figures 8(a) through (c). Comparison of Figures 8(a) and 2(a) shows that most of the smaller particles were consumed. At the same time, both the small particle conglomerates and the elongated particles occurred by a uniform attack on their surface, as can be clearly observed comparing Figures 2(b) and (c) with 8(b) and (c), respectively. From both figures, it can also be noted that there was no sintering or morphological changes in the larger  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  crystals.

The X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis of the chlorination residues obtained under different experimental conditions did not show changes in the crystalline structure of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$ . Likewise, no chlorinated compounds were detected in the residue by XRD.

### E. Kinetic Models

Bamford and Tipper<sup>[12]</sup> state that the kinetic treatment of noncatalytic solid-gas heterogeneous reactions can be performed by comparing series of measurements of  $X$  (conversion) –  $t$  (time) with models that are formulated taking into account the initial state and the evolution experienced by the different dependent or independent variables involved in the process. When the reaction is simple, such as

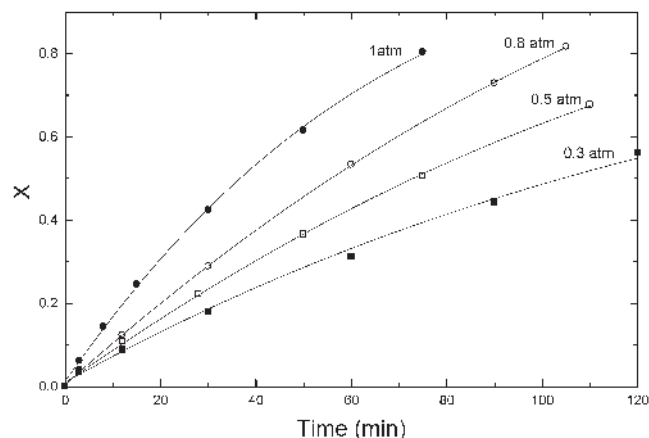


Fig. 7—Effect of  $\text{Cl}_2$  partial pressure on the chlorination of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$ .



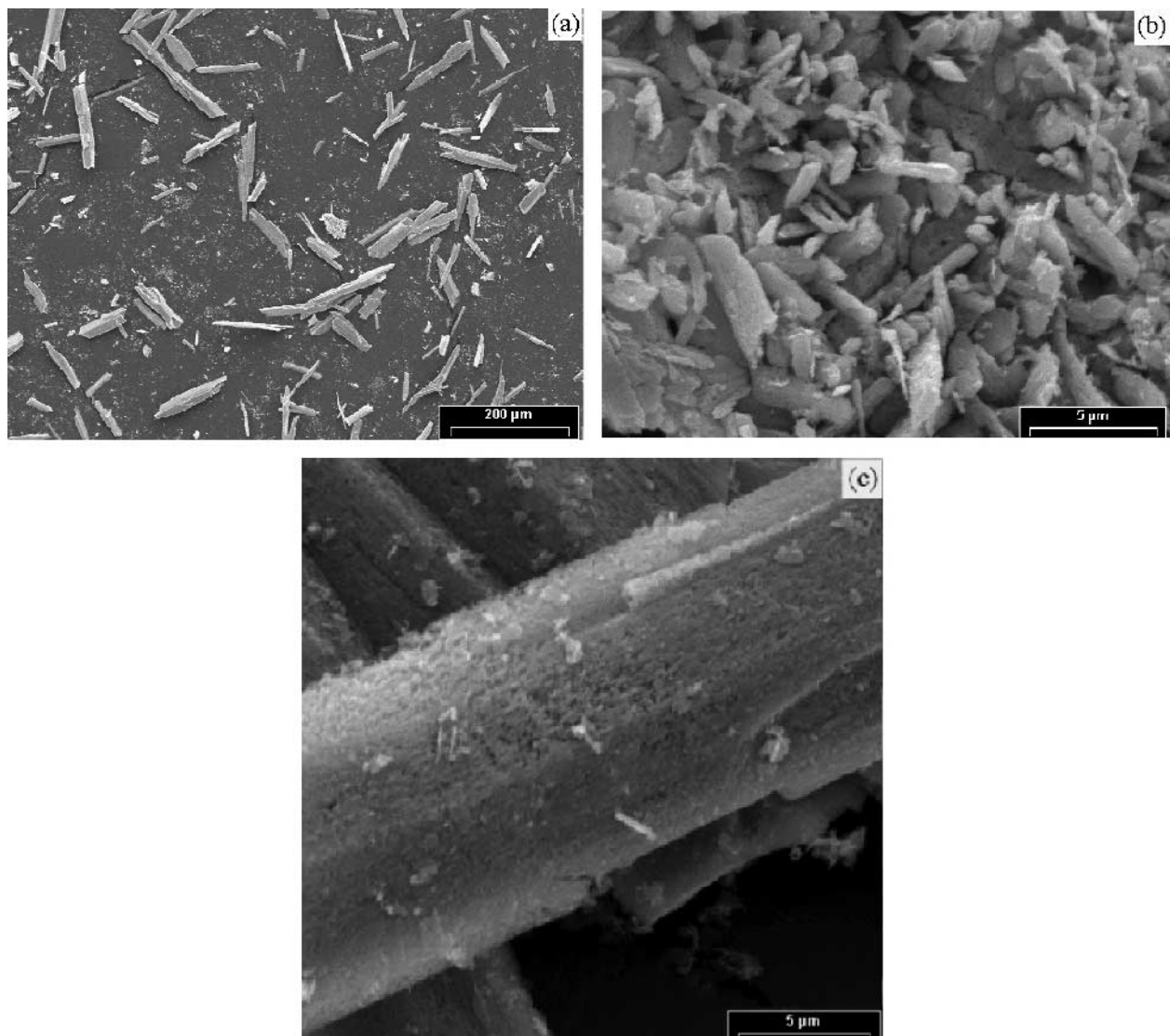


Fig. 8—SEM analysis of the chlorination residue: (a) overall view of a chlorinated residue, (b) surface of the conglomerate after the chlorination, (c) attacked elongated particle.

and the solid reagent is pure and nonporous, the development of kinetic models is based on the following equation:

$$\frac{dX}{dt} = \frac{bM_B r_s \Omega_r}{m^0} \quad [6]$$

where  $X$ ,  $M_B$ , and  $m^0$  are the conversion, the molecular weight, and the initial mass of the solid reagent, respectively;  $\Omega_r$  is the reaction interface; and  $r_s$  is the reaction rate per unit of reaction interface.

In Eq. [6],  $r_s$  is a function of the temperature,  $T$ , and of the partial pressure of the fluid chemical species, commonly expressed by models of the Langmuir – Hinshelwood – Hougen – Watson type, as in the following example:

$$r_s = \frac{k(p_{As} - p_{Qs}/K)}{1 + k_1 p_{As} + k_2 p_{Qs}} \quad [7]$$

or else by models of the potency-law type:

$$r_s = k p_{As}^n \quad [8]$$

where  $p_{As}$  and  $p_{Qs}$  are the partial pressures of the fluid reagent and product  $A$  and  $Q$ , respectively, evaluated on the reaction interface.

In Eq. [6],  $\Omega_r$  is a function of the extension of the interface area and the solid reactivity. The extension depends on geometrical factors and on the accessibility of the fluid reagent. As can be seen in Bamford and Tipper<sup>[12]</sup> and in Quiroga *et al.*,<sup>[13]</sup> if the particle is nonporous or there is no formation of solid products on it, the modeling of  $\Omega_r$  is carried out as a function of the type of reactivity exhibited by the solid reagent sample. It has been experimentally observed that solids can exhibit three types of reactivity.

#### 1. Type A

Local and temporally uniform reactivity: this type occurs when the interface surface exhibits a uniformly reactive behavior that does not depend on the time or on the particle internal coordinates. If the reacting particle is made up of a nonporous pure solid reagent ( $\varepsilon^o = 0$ ), then  $\Omega_r = \Omega$ ,

which depends not only on the particle shape and size, can be expressed as a function of  $X$  by the following equation:

$$\Omega = \Omega^0(1 - X)^\gamma \quad [9]$$

where  $\Omega^0$  is the initial external surface area of the particle;  $\gamma$  is a shape coefficient of the particle ( $\gamma = 2/3$ , if the particle is spherical;  $\gamma = 1/2$ , if it is an elongated, needle-shaped particle; and  $\gamma = 0$ , if it is disc shaped or a flat plate).

If the reaction occurs at constant  $c_{As}$  and  $T$ , then, by combining Eqs. [6], [8], and [9] and integrating the resulting equation, the following correlation equation is obtained:

$$\text{Model 1: } X = 1 - (1 - b_{11}t)^{1/(1-\gamma)} \quad [10]$$

with  $b_{11}$  defined as

$$b_{11} = \frac{b(1 - \gamma)M_B k p_A^n \Omega^0 t}{m^0} \quad [11]$$

Model 1 is used for correlating kinetic data obtained from noncatalytic solid-fluid reactions that satisfy the following conditions: (1) the reaction is carried out at constant  $c_{As}$  and  $T$ ; (2) there is no formation of solid products that remain adhered to the particles; and (3) the solid sample is formed by particles of nonporous pure solid reagent with a constant reactivity.

### 2. Type B

Topochemical or autolocalized reactivity—this type can occur when the formation of  $\Omega_r$ —takes place in preferential sites of the particle interface surface. As can be seen in Bamford and Tipper,<sup>[12]</sup> Quiroga *et al.*,<sup>[13]</sup> and Delmon,<sup>[14]</sup> the modeling of  $\Omega_r$  is based on the theory of nucleation and growth developed by Avrami. From this theory, a number of models can be developed that differ in regard to the nucleation type, the mechanisms involved in the nucleation rate, and the shape of the nuclei.

### 3. Type C

Locally uniform and initially variable reactivity—this type occurs when the initial reactivity of the interface surface is null and gradually grows as the contact time between the reagents increases. Shieh and Lee<sup>[15]</sup> have established that the variation experienced by the solid reactivity at the start of the reaction is due to physicochemical phenomena that occur on the interface surface of the solid reagent. According to these authors, the formation rate of  $\Omega_r$  can be expressed as follows:

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = (1 - \theta)r_\Omega \quad [12]$$

where  $\theta = \Omega_r/\Omega$ ;  $r_\Omega$  is the formation rate of  $\Omega_r$ .

The formulation of  $r_\Omega$  is done as a function of the rate of the rate-controlling stage of the physicochemical phenomenon that takes place in  $\Omega$ . For example, if the reaction initial rate is controlled by the rate of the adsorption-reaction-desorption stages, a good approximation of  $r_\Omega$  is obtained by the following expression:

$$r_\Omega = k_\Omega p_A^m \quad [13]$$

Combining and integrating Eqs. [12] and [13], and taking into account that when the solid reagent is pure and nonporous,  $\Omega = \Omega^0(1 - X)^\gamma$ , Eq. [14] is obtained:

$$\Omega_r = \Omega^0(1 - X)^\gamma [1 - e^{-k_\Omega p_A^m t}] \quad [14]$$

Note that for  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , Eq. [14] is reduced to Eq. [9].

Finally, if the reaction is carried out at constant  $c_{As}$  and  $T$ , by combining and integrating Eqs. [6], [8], and [14], the following correlation equation is obtained:

$$\text{Model 2: } X = 1 - \{1 - b_{22}[b_{21}t + e^{-b_{21}t} - 1]\}^{1/(1-\gamma)} \quad [15]$$

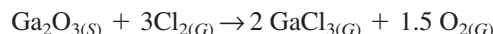
with  $b_{21}$  and  $b_{22}$  defined as

$$b_{21} = k_\Omega p_A^m \quad b_{22} = \frac{b(1 - \gamma)M_B k p_A^n \Omega^0}{m^0 k_\Omega p_A^m} \quad [16]$$

Model 2 is used for correlating kinetic data obtained from noncatalytic solid-fluid reactions that satisfy the following conditions: (1) the reaction is carried out at constant  $c_{As}$  and  $T$ ; (2) there is no formation of solid products that remain adhered to the particles; (3) the solid sample is formed by particles of nonporous pure solid reagent with variable initial reactivity. It is noted that for  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , the Eq. [15] is reduced to Eq. [10].

## F. Results of the Kinetic Treatment

The experimental data of the chlorination of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$



were treated by a software that includes models 1 and 2 and a large set of models developed on the basis of the nucleation and growth theory. This treatment showed that models 1 and 2 with  $\gamma = 2/3$  present the lowest associated regression error. Table I presents the estimates of the parameters (columns  $b_{11}$ ,  $b_{21}$ , and  $b_{22}$ ) and the associated regression errors (columns  $\bar{\epsilon}_{r1}$  and  $\bar{\epsilon}_{r2}$ ) of each model for each run. Comparing the estimates of columns  $\bar{\epsilon}_{r1}$  and  $\bar{\epsilon}_{r2}$  one by one, it is observed that the associated regression errors of model 2 are lower than those of model 1. It is also observed that the associated errors of model 1 increase with increasing  $T$  and decreasing  $P_{\text{Cl}_2}$ , while the associated errors of model 2 do not exhibit any systematic tendency. Considering these observations and the fact that the kinetic mechanism involved in model 2 fits better with noncatalytic solid-gas heterogeneous reactions, as well as the fact that its adjunct regression errors at each level are lower than 1 pct, it is possible to consider model 2 more probable than model 1.

Finally, using the data from Table I for model 2 and by means of the mathematical treatment of the kinetic coefficients  $b_{21}$  and  $b_{22}$ , the following expressions are obtained for  $r_s$  and  $r_\Omega$ :

$$r_s = 5.7610^3 e^{-113.23/RT} p_{As}^{0.68} \quad r_\Omega = 11.33 e^{-23.810/RT} p_{As}^{0.111}$$

The results of the correlation of experimental data by model 2 are shown in Figure 9.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

The chlorination of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  with  $\text{Cl}_2$  gas is appreciable at temperatures above 650 °C, and the conversion of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  is practically total at 800 °C for a reaction time of 90 minutes.

The extension of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  chlorination in  $\text{Cl}_2$  atmosphere increases with temperature and  $\text{Cl}_2$  partial pressure.

The experimental data were correlated with different kinetic models, finding that model 2,  $X = 1 - \{1 - b_{22}[b_{21}t + e^{-b_{21}t} - 1]\}^{1/(1-\gamma)}$ , is the one that best represents the results of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  chlorination. Model 2 fits better with the kinetic mechanism

**Table I. Results of the Kinetic Treatment of the Experimental Data of Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> Chlorination**

Run	T (°C)	P <sub>Cl<sub>2</sub></sub> (atm)	Model 1 $X = 1 - (1 - b_{11}t)^3$		Model 2 $X = 1 - \{1 - b_{22}[b_{21}t + e^{-b_{21}t} - 1]\}^3$		
			$\bar{\varepsilon}_{r1}$ (Pct)	$b_{11} \cdot 10^3$	$\bar{\varepsilon}_{r2}$ (Pct)	$b_{21}$	$b_{22} \cdot 10^3$
1	680	1	0.69	1.13	0.49	0.629	1.97
2	700	1	0.58	1.77	0.67	0.574	3.11
3	720	1	1.29	2.13	0.80	0.586	5.35
4	740	1	1.28	3.70	0.87	0.640	7.68
5	760	1	0.80	5.37	0.70	0.650	7.07
6	780	1	1.40	6.76	0.60	0.815	9.16
7	800	1	2.67	8.28	0.78	0.819	12.80
8	780	0.8	0.83	5.28	0.66	0.838	6.29
9	780	0.5	1.34	2.94	0.81	0.766	3.84
10	780	0.3	3.12	2.21	0.95	0.728	2.86

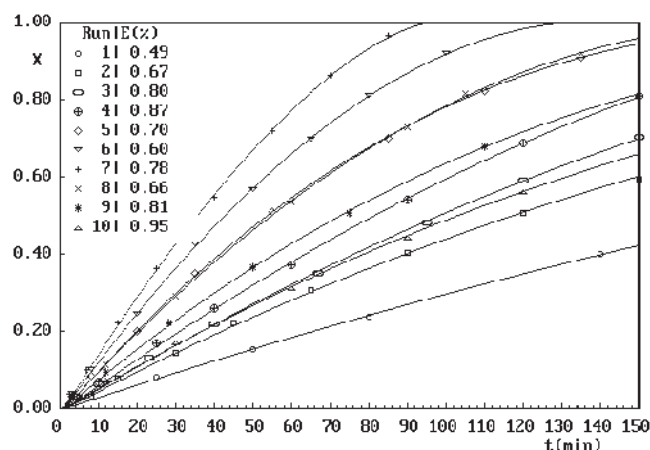


Fig. 9—Correlation of the experimental data of Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> chlorination with the experimental model  $X = 1 - \{1 - b_{22}[b_{21}t + e^{-b_{21}t} - 1]\}^{1/(1-\gamma)}$ .

of the stages involved in noncatalytic gas-solid heterogeneous reactions. Furthermore, it permitted establishment of the fact that the formation of the reaction interface is not instantaneous, and revealed that at the start of the reaction, the rate is controlled by the desorption rate of the fluid product.

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## NOMENCLATURE

$a, b, q$	stoichiometric coefficients of the gaseous reagent, solid reagent, and gaseous product, respectively
$A_{(G)}, B_{(S)}, Q_{(S)}$	gaseous reagent, solid reagent, and gaseous product, respectively
$b_{11}, b_{21}, b_{22}$	coefficients defined by Eqs. [11] and [16], respectively
$C_{As}$	molar concentration of the gaseous reagent, evaluated on the reaction interface
$k$	kinetic constant of fluid-solid reaction

$k_1$	kinetic constant of gaseous reagent adsorption
$k_2$	kinetic constant of gaseous product desorption
$k_\Omega$	kinetic constant of reaction interface formation
$K$	equilibrium constant
$M_B$	molecular weight of the solid reagent
$m_f$	final Ga <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> mass
$m^0$	initial Ga <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> mass
$m$	order of reaction with respect to the formation of the reaction interface
$n$	order of reaction with respect to the fluid reagent
$p_A$	partial pressures of gaseous reagent and gaseous product
$p_{As}, p_{Qs}$	partial pressures, evaluated on the reaction interface, of gaseous reagent and gaseous product, respectively
$p_{Cl_2}$	partial pressure of gaseous reagent Cl <sub>2</sub>
$r_s$	solid-fluid reaction rate per unit of reaction interface
$r_\Omega$	formation rate of reaction interface
$T$	temperature
$t$	time
$X$	fraction of conversion of the solid reagent

## Greek letters

$\Delta m$ pct	mass loss percentage, defined by Eq. [3]
$\varepsilon$	particle porosity
$\varepsilon^0$	initial particle porosity
$\bar{\varepsilon}_{r1}$ (pct)	regression error associated with model 1
$\bar{\varepsilon}_{r2}$ (pct)	regression error associated with model 2
$\gamma$	particle shape factor
$\Omega$	particle external surface
$\Omega^0$	external surface of the initial particle
$\Omega_r$	reaction interface
$\theta$	relation between reaction interface and particle surface

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