

Dynamics Of Malonic Acid Inhibited Uncatalysed And Co_2O_3 catalysed Autoxidation Of S (IV) In Alkaline Medium

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ABSTRACT:

The kinetics of the malonic acid inhibited Co_2O_3 catalysed autoxidation of S (IV) in alkaline medium has been studied and based on the observed results rate law and a free radical mechanism has been proposed.

$$\frac{-d[S(\text{IV})]}{dt} = \frac{(k_1 + k_2[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3])[S(\text{IV})]}{1 + B[\text{Malonic acid}]}$$

Keywords: Kinetics; Autoxidation; SO_2 ; Co_2O_3 ; Catalysis; Inhibition; malonic acid

I. INTRODUCTION

The acid rain problem is mainly attributed to anthropogenic sulfur dioxide and, to a lesser extent, nitrogen oxide emissions. The transformation of sulfur dioxide to acid sulfate is the major cause of atmospheric acid precipitation. It is generally agreed that the gas phase oxidation including photochemical oxidation by O_3 and H_2O_2 , which are produced in the atmosphere by photochemical reactions, and oxidation by O_2 in aqueous phase catalysed by dissolved trace metal ions and by suspended particulate matter are major contributors to acid precipitation [1-5]. The oxidation of sulfur dioxide has been one of the most frequently studied reactions in aqueous atmospheric droplets. Three reaction pathways are considered to be dominantly responsible for oxidation of SO_2 in atmospheric water droplets. These are the oxidation of dissolved SO_2 by H_2O_2 , O_3 and O_2 in the presence of transition metal ions as catalysts [6-7]. The role of O_3 becomes more important above pH 6 [8]. Oxidation by molecular oxygen may also be important if cloud water contains sufficient amount of transition metal ions (e.g., Fe, Mn) for autocatalytic reactions to occur [9].

Iron(II/III) and manganese (II/III) are the most important catalysts in atmospheric droplets [10-11]. These metals are the only efficient catalysts at low pH. Other transition metals such as Cu(II), Co(III), Sc(III), Ti(III), V(III) and Cr(III) are also catalysts, but with a substantially lower effect on the reaction rate [12-13].

Recent studies show that the sulfur (IV) oxidation in atmospheric water droplets can be affected by other reactions. Organic compounds may dissolve into water droplets and react with sulfoxyl radicals and transition metal ions, and thus alter the rate of catalytic S(IV) oxidation [14-20]. Recently the influence of some low weight mono-(formic, acetic) and di-carboxylic acids (oxalic, malic, malonic) on the Mn(II)-catalysed S(IV) oxidation has also been investigated [21-22]. It has been established that mono-carboxylic acids inhibit the oxidation, with the strongest influence found for formic acid. The lowest inhibition was caused by acetic acid [23-25].

In Indian sub-continent the pH of the rain water lies in the range 6.5-8.5. This necessitates a study of the sulfur(IV) autoxidation in the alkaline pH range. In most of the studies the role of organics has been reported in the metal ion catalysed autoxidation of sulfur(IV) in aqueous medium [26-27]. Very few studies are available on the role of organics on the metal oxide catalysed autoxidation of sulfur(IV) in aqueous medium. This led us to investigate the kinetics of sulfur(IV) autoxidation catalyzed by Co_2O_3 in the pH range 7.8-9.4. and the effect of malonic acid has been studied in alkaline media to delineate the nature of the mechanism.

II. EXPERIMENTAL

The experimental procedure was exactly the same as described earlier [28-30]. and is briefly given here. All chemicals used were of reagent grade and their solutions were prepared in double distilled water. The reactions were conducted in 0.15-L Erlenmeyer flasks, open to air and to allow the passage of atmospheric oxygen. The flask was placed in a beaker, which had an inlet at the lower part and an outlet at the upper part for circulating thermostatic water for maintaining the desired temperature, $30. \pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$. The reactions were initiated by adding the desired volume of standard Na_2SO_3 solution to the reaction mixture containing other additives such as buffer and catalyst oxide. The reaction mixture was stirred continuously and magnetically at $1,600 \pm 100$ rpm to allow the passage of atmospheric oxygen and to save the reaction from becoming oxygen mass transfer controlled. The kinetics were studied in buffered medium, in which the pH remained fixed throughout the entire course of reaction. For this purpose, 10 cm^3 of buffer made from Na_2HPO_4 (0.08 mol L^{-1}) and KH_2PO_4 (0.02 mol L^{-1}) for alkaline medium were used (total volume 100 cm^3) for obtaining the desired pH. The kinetics were followed by withdrawing the aliquot samples periodically and titrating the unreacted S(IV) eudiometrically in slightly acidic medium as described earlier. The reproducibility of the replicate measurements was generally better than $\pm 10\%$. All calculations were performed in MS Excel [31].

III. PRODUCT ANALYSIS

The qualitative tests showed sulfate to be the only oxidation product. For quantitative analysis, the reaction mixtures containing catalyst and S(IV) in appropriately buffered solutions were constantly stirred for a sufficiently long time so as to ensure complete oxidation of sulfur(IV). When the reaction was complete, Co_2O_3 was filtered out and sulfate was estimated gravimetrically by precipitating sulfate ions as BaSO_4 using standard procedure [32].

The product analysis showed the recovery of sulfate to be $98 \pm 2\%$ in all cases in agreement with Eq.1.



IV. RESULTS

Preliminary Investigation

The kinetics of uncatalysed and Co_2O_3 catalysed autoxidation reaction of S(IV) were studied in alkaline medium in the pH range 7.90-9.45 at $t=30^\circ\text{C}$. In both the cases first order dependence in $[\text{S(IV)}]$ was found and the treatment of kinetic data is based on the determination of first order rate constant k_1 , from the plot of $\log [\text{S(IV)}]$ versus time, t , plots are shown in the Fig. 1

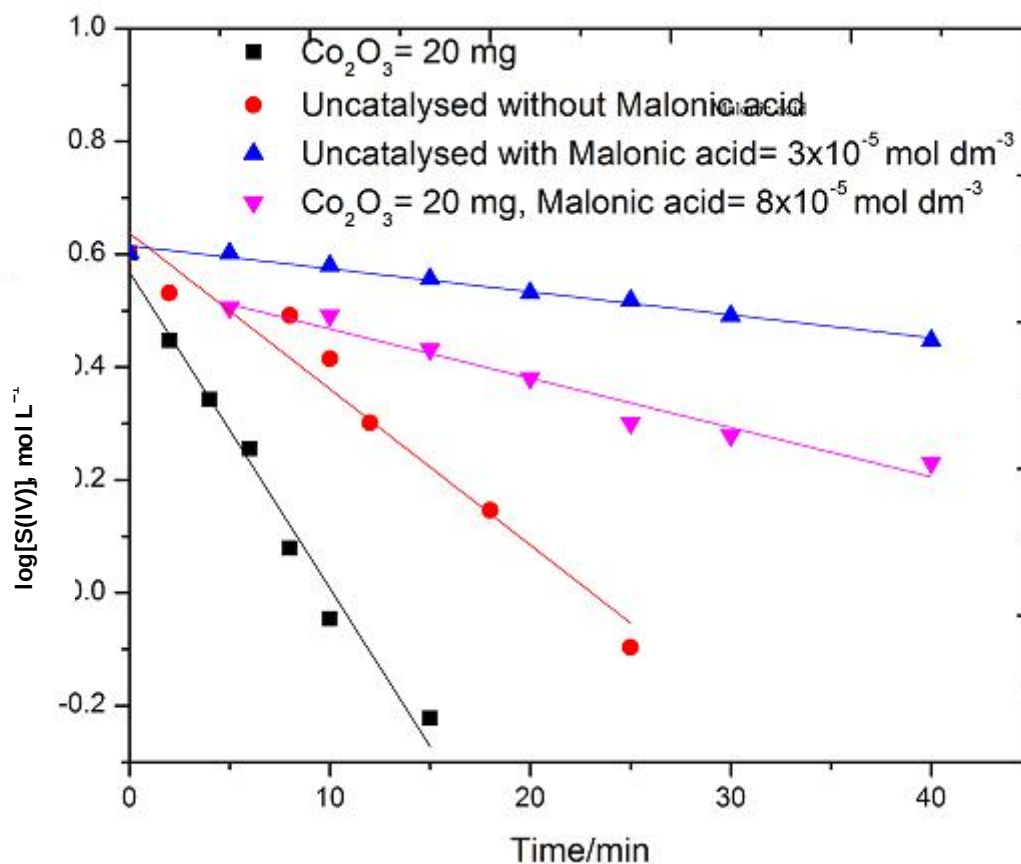


Fig. 1 The disappearance of [S(IV)] with time in air - saturated suspensions of 100 ml at [S(IV)] = 2×10^{-3} mol L⁻¹, at 30° C and pH = 7.90,

Uncatalysed Reaction

In this study the reaction was studied without adding Co₂O₃. As it is well known that the uncatalysed reaction is initiated by the trace metal ion impurities present in the reagent samples and distilled water used for the preparation of solutions, so the uncatalysed reaction is initiated by these trace metal ion impurities particularly transition metal ions.

[S(IV)] Dependence

The dependence of [S(IV)] on the reaction rate was studied by varying from 1×10^{-3} mol L⁻¹ to 6×10^{-3} mol L⁻¹ at pH = 7.90 and t = 30°C in phosphate buffer medium. The kinetics was found to be first order in [S(IV)] and log [S(IV)] vs. time plots were linear. The results are given in table 1. The value of first order rate constant, k₁ are shown in table 1. The dependence of reaction rate on [S(IV)] follows the following rate law.

$$-d[S(IV)]/dt = k_1 [S(IV)] \quad (2)$$

Table -1 The values of k_1 for Uncatalysed reaction at different $[S(IV)]$ at pH= 7.90 and $t = 30^\circ\text{C}$

$[S(IV)]\text{mol L}^{-1}$	$10^4 k_1 \text{ s}^{-1}$
0.001	1.07
0.002	1.05
0.004	1.03
0.006	1.02

[Malonic acid] dependence

The major aim of the present study was to examine the effect of organic inhibitors on the autoxidation of S(IV) in alkaline medium so for this purpose malonic acid was chosen as the organic inhibitor. On varying the [malonic acid] from 1×10^{-7} to $4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, the rate of the reaction become decelerated. The results are given in table 2

The nature of the $[S(IV)]$ – dependence in presence of malonic acid did not change and remained first order. The first order rate constant k_{inh} in the presence of malonic acid was defined by the following rate law (3)

$$-d[S(IV)] / dt = k_{inh}[S(IV)] \quad (3)$$

The values of k_{inh} at different [malonic acid] are given in table 2

Table-2 The value of k_{inh} at $[S(IV)] = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, pH= 7.90, $t = 30^\circ\text{C}$,

[Malonic acid]	k_{inh}	$1/k_{inh}$
0	0.0000001	2457
1×10^{-7}	0.0000002	2770
2×10^{-6}	0.0000004	3378
3×10^{-5}	0.0000006	4255
4×10^{-4}	0.000002	5076

The values of first order rate constant k_{inh} in the presence of malonic acid decreased, with increasing malonic acid in agreement with the rate law.

$$k_{inh} = k_1 / (1 + B [\text{Malonic acid}]) \quad (4)$$

where B is inhibition parameter for rate inhibition by malonic acid.

By rearranging the equation (4) we get

$$1/k_{inh} = 1/k_1 + B [\text{Malonic acid}] / k_1 \quad (5)$$

In accordance with eq.(5) the plot of $1/k_{inh}$ versus [malonic acid] was found to be linear with a non-zero intercept, fig. 2 Where intercept = $1/k_1$ and slope = B/k_1 . The values of $1/k_1$ and B/k_1 were found to be 1.05×10^3 s and $2.95 \times 10^8 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ L}$ at pH = 7.90, and $t=30^\circ\text{C}$. The value of slope/intercept gives us the value of inhibition parameter B, which was found to be $3.54 \times 10^5 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ L}$.

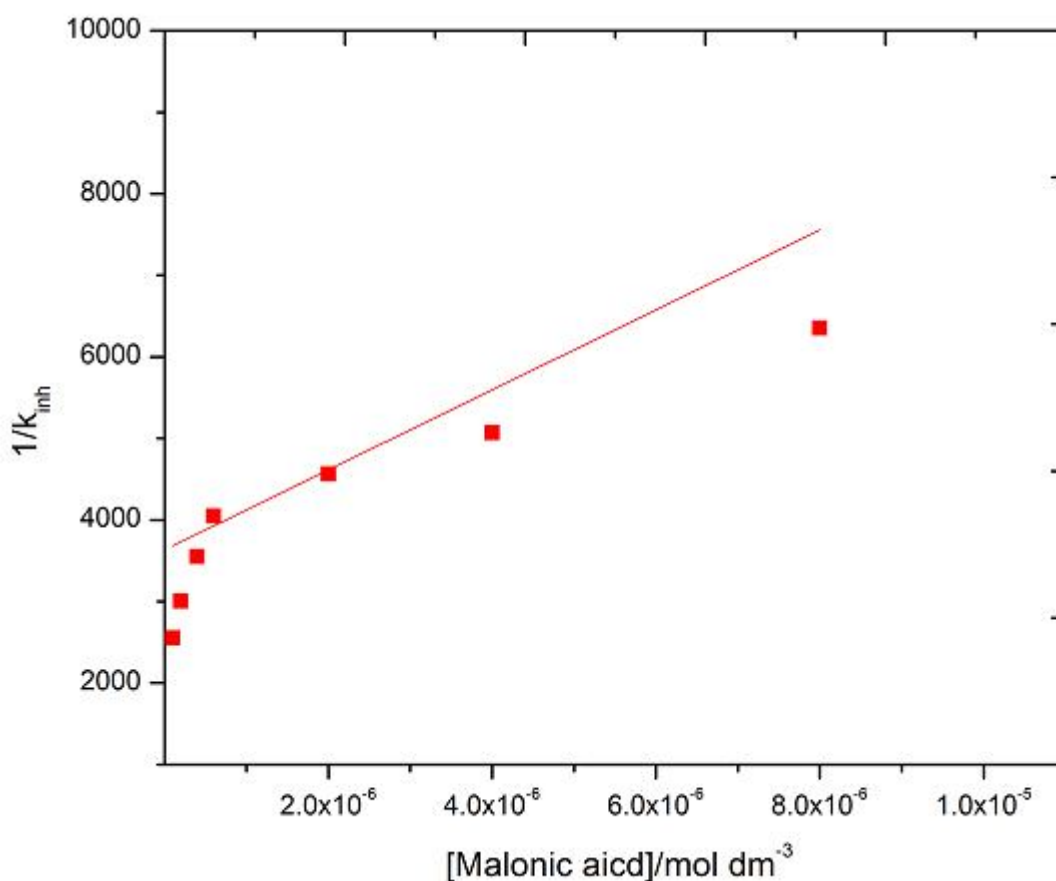


Fig. 2 Effect of malonic acid at $[S(IV)] = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ and at 30°C in phosphate buffered medium

Co_2O_3 -Catalyzed Reaction

The kinetics of Co_2O_3 -catalysed autoxidation of $S(IV)$ was studied in alkaline medium in the absence of inhibitor malonic acid.

[S(IV)] Variation

The dependence of reaction rate on $[S(IV)]$ was studied by varying $[S(IV)]$ from 1×10^{-3} to $10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ at two different but fixed $[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3]$ of 0.1 and 0.2 g L^{-1} at pH = 7.90 and $t=30^\circ\text{C}$. The kinetics was found to be first order in $[S(IV)]$ as shown in Fig. 1 and $\log [S(IV)]$ versus time plots were linear.

$[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3]$ Variation

The dependence of reaction rate on $[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3]$ was studied by varying $[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3]$ from 0.1g L^{-1} - 0.4g L^{-1} at fixed $[\text{S(IV)}]$ of $2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ at $\text{pH}=7.90$ and $t=30^\circ\text{C}$ in phosphate buffer medium. The values of first order rate constants k_{cat} for S(IV) - autoxidation was determined at different $[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3]$ are given in table 3.

Table. 3 The value of k_{cat} at different $[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3]$ at $\text{pH} = 7.90$ and $t = 30^\circ\text{C}$

$\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3(\text{g L}^{-1})$	$10^3 k_{\text{cat}} \text{ s}^{-1}$
0.1	3.04
0.2	3.52
0.3	4.24
0.4	4.79

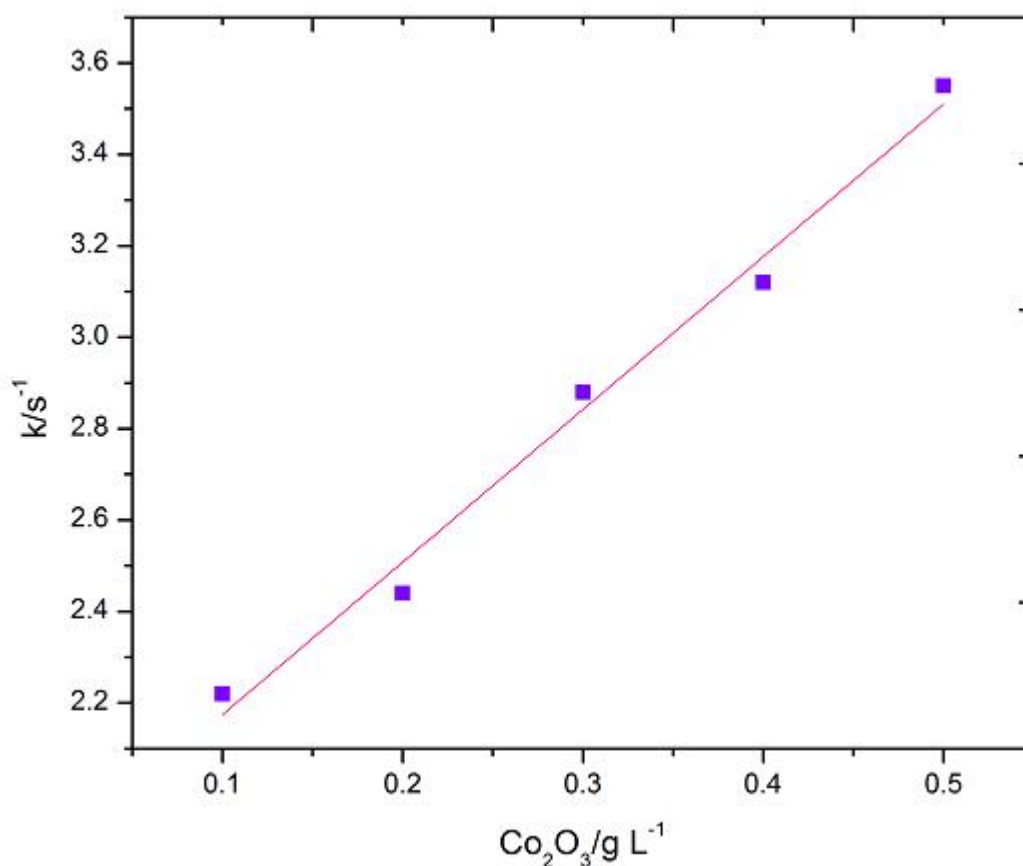


Fig. 3 The dependence of rate on catalyst concentration at $[\text{S(IV)}] = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, at $t=30^\circ\text{C}$ and $\text{pH} = 7.90$

The nature of dependence of k_{cat} on $[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3]$ shown in Fig 3 indicates the operation of a two term rate law

$$-d[S(IV)]/dt = k_{cat}[S(IV)] = (k_1 + k_2[Co_2O_3])[S(IV)] \quad (6)$$

$$k_{cat} = k_1 + k_2[Co_2O_3] \quad (7)$$

from the plot in Fig 3 the values of intercept is equal to k_1 and slope is equal to k_2 were found to be $5.1 \times 10^{-4} s$ and $4.01 \times 10^{-3} mol^{-1} L s$, respectively at pH= 7.90 and 30°C.

Variation of pH

Variation in pH in the range 7.90 to 9.45 in phosphate buffer medium showed the rate to be independent of pH. The results are given in table 4. The effect of [buffer] was examined by varying the concentration of both Na_2HPO_4 & KH_2PO_4 in such a way that the ratio $[Na_2HPO_4] / [KH_2PO_4]$ remained same, so that pH remained fixed.

Table. 4 variation of pH at $[Co_2O_3] = 0.2 g L^{-1}$, [malonic acid] = $2 \times 10^{-4} mol L^{-1}$, $[S(IV)] = 2 \times 10^{-3} mol L^{-1}$ and $t = 30^\circ C$

$[S(IV)] mol L^{-1}$	$[Co_2O_3] g L^{-1}$	[malonic acid] $mol L^{-1}$	pH	temp.	$10^4 k_{cat}$ $k_1 + k_2[Co_2O_3]$
0.002	0.2	0.0002 M	7.90	30°C	3.62
0.002	0.2	0.0002 M	8.15	30°C	3.58
0.002	0.2	0.0002 M	8.55	30°C	3.48
0.002	0.2	0.0002 M	9.45	30°C	3.10

Variation of Malonic acid

To know the effect of malonic acid on Co_2O_3 catalysed autoxidation of $S(IV)$, malonic acid variation was carried out from 1×10^{-4} to $4 \times 10^{-4} mol L^{-1}$ at two different $[Co_2O_3]$ that is 0.1 and $0.2 g L^{-1}$ but fixed $[S(IV)] = 2 \times 10^{-3} mol L^{-1}$ at pH = 7.90 and $t = 30^\circ C$. The results indicates that by increasing the [malonic acid] the rate become decreases.

A detailed study was carried out for the dependence of rate on $[S(IV)]$, $[Co_2O_3]$, and pH on the reaction in the presence of malonic acid revealed that the kinetics remain first order both in $[S(IV)]$ and $[Co_2O_3]$ and independent of pH.

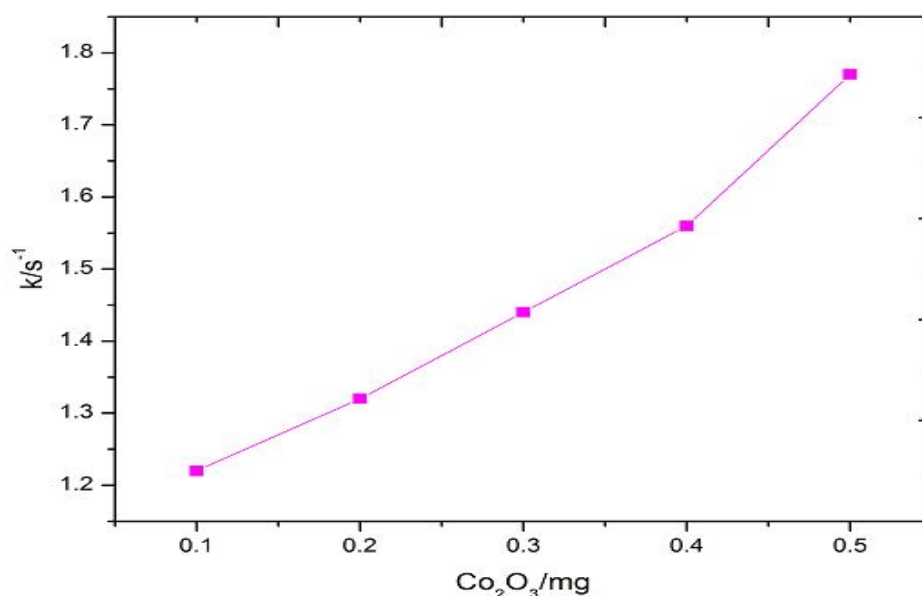


Fig. 4 Effect of [S(IV)] at malonic acid = 2×10^{-4} g L⁻¹, pH=7.90 and at 30°C, in phosphate buffered medium

A plot between [Co₂O₃] v/s first order rate constant is linear (fig. 4) with non-zero intercept. The value of intercept and slope are found to be 1.05×10^{-4} s⁻¹ and 1.85×10^{-5} g⁻¹ L s⁻¹ respectively. Depend upon the observed results the reaction follows the following rate law in the presence of malonic acid.

$$-d[S(IV)] / dt = (k_1 + k_2[Co_2O_3] [S(IV)] / 1 + B [Malonic acid]) \quad (8)$$

$$k_{inh} = (k_1 + k_2[Co_2O_3] / 1 + B [Malonic acid]) = k_{cat} / 1 + B [Malonic acid] \quad (9)$$

$$1/k_{inh} = 1 + B [Malonic acid] / k_{cat} \quad (10)$$

$$1/k_{inh} = 1/k_{cat} + B [Malonic acid] / k_{cat} \quad (11)$$

By plotting a graph between $1/k_{inh}$ v/s [malonic acid] gives a linear line with non-zero intercept fig. 5. The value of intercept = $1/k_{cat}$ and slope = B/k_{cat} from the graph these values are found to be 1.85×10^3 s and 5.81×10^7 mol⁻¹ L s respectively. From these values the value of inhibition parameter B can be calculated, inhibition parameter B = slope/intercept that is $B = 2.81 \times 10^5$ mol⁻¹ L.

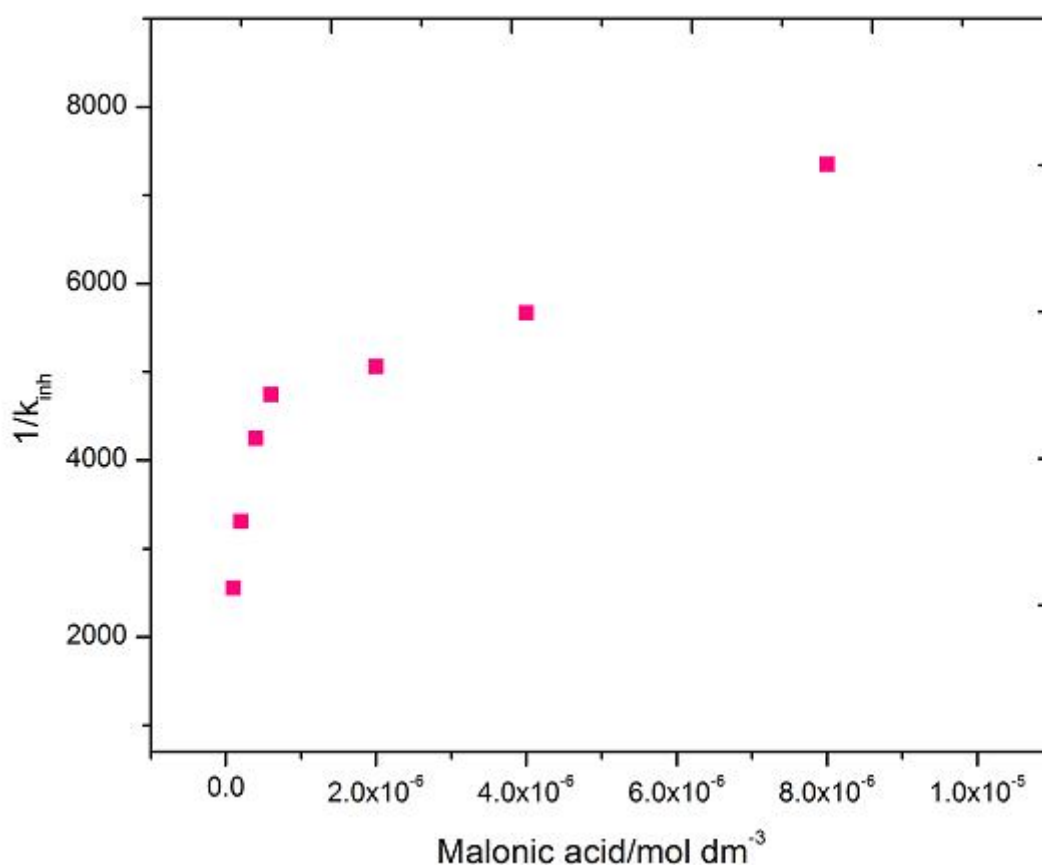


Fig. 5 Plot of $1/K_{inh}$ vs [malonic acid] at $[S(IV)] = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, $t = 30^\circ\text{C}$, $[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3] = 10\text{mg}$, and $\text{pH} = 7.90$ in phosphate buffered medium.

Effect of temperature

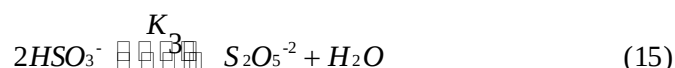
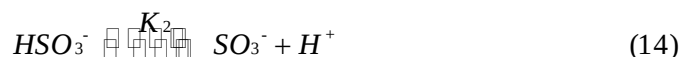
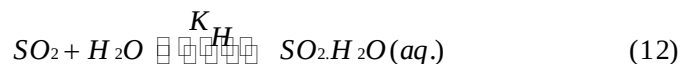
To calculate the apparent empirical energy of activation the values of k_{obs} were determined at three different temperatures in the range 30°C to 40°C . The results are given in table 5. By plotting a graph between $\log k$ versus $1/t$ gives us the apparent energy of activation determined to be $24.12 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$.

Table5 Effect of temperature on k_{obs} air saturated suspensions at $[S(IV)] = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, $[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3] = 0.2 \text{ g L}^{-1}$, $[\text{malonic acid}] = 2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, $t = 30^\circ\text{C}$, and $\text{pH} = 7.34$.

t °C	$10^4 k_{obs}, \text{s}^{-1}$
30	3.61
35	5.1
40	7.35

V. DISCUSSION:

In aqueous solution SO_2 is present in four forms, $\text{SO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, HSO_3^- , SO_3^{2-} and $\text{S}_2\text{O}_5^{2-}$, governed by the following equations.

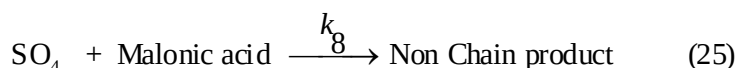
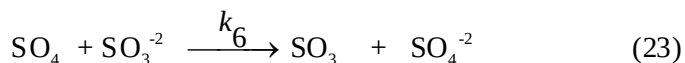
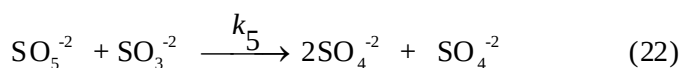
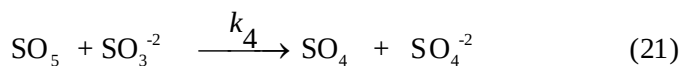
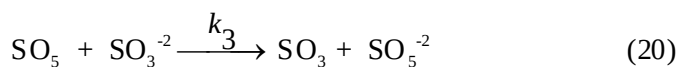
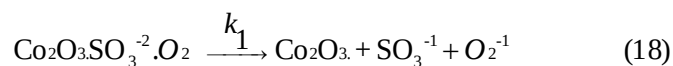
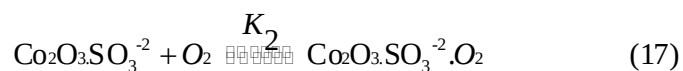


K_H is Henry's constant and K_1 , K_2 are acid dissociation constants. K_3 is the formation constant for $\text{S}_2\text{O}_5^{2-}$ at 25°C the values are $K_H = 1.23 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{atm}^{-1}$, $K_1 = 1.4 \times 10^{-2}$, $K_2 = 6.24 \times 10^{-8}$, and $K_3 = 7.6 \times 10^{-2}$. In this experimental study in pH range (7.90 - 9.45), S(IV) would be largely present as SO_3^{2-} . Since the rate of reaction is nearly independent of pH, we have considered only SO_3^{2-} species to be reactive in the subsequently. Grgic *et al.* (1998, 1999); Wolf *et al.* (2000) found that oxalate has strong inhibiting effect on S(IV) autoxidation in the presence of Fe(III) or Fe(II), however oxalate has weak inhibiting effect on Mn(II) catalysed autoxidation of S(IV), because oxalate is not a strong chelating agent, Podkrajsek *et al.* reported that mono-carboxylic acids inhibit the oxidation, out of which formic acid shows strong inhibiting effect. The probable reason for the inhibition is the interaction between sulfate radicals and carboxylic acid. Organic compound that do not form strong complexes have also been shown an inhibiting effect on Fe(III)-catalysed oxidation of S(IV) at high pH. Martin *et al.* found that acetate and formate ions shows substance inhibiting effect at $\text{pH} \geq 5$ but negligible inhibition at $\text{pH} \leq 3$.

In several transition metal oxide catalysed heterogeneous aqueous phase auto oxidation reactions of sulfur(IV), the formation of surficial complexes by adsorption of sulfur(IV) and O_2 on the particle surface and oxidation of sulfur(IV) take place through the intervention of multiple oxidation states has been proposed. In the heterogeneous solid – liquid phase reaction of MnO_2 and S(IV), that the sulfite ion makes bond through oxygen atom at the surface of solid MnO_2 . In the present study, the dependence of oxygen shows that the formation of surficial complex by adsorption of O_2 on the particle surface of Co_2O_3 through the fast step.

In alkaline medium the rate of Co_2O_3 catalysed reaction is highly decelerated by the addition of malonic acid like that of ethanol reported by Gupta *et al* this indicates the operation of a radical mechanism involving oxy sulfur free radicals, like $\text{SO}_3^{\cdot-}$, $\text{SO}_4^{\cdot-}$ and $\text{SO}_5^{\cdot-}$. The inhibition is caused through the scavenging of $\text{SO}_4^{\cdot-}$ by inhibitors such as ethanol and benzene, etc.

As reported by Gupta *et al* a radical mechanism operates in those reactions in which the inhibition parameter lies the range 10^3 - 10^4 . In this study the value of inhibitor parameter is found to be 1.12×10^4 , which lies in the same range. This strongly supports the radical mechanism. For the Co_2O_3 – catalysed reaction in presence of malonic acid. Based on the observed results including the inhibition by malonic acid, the following radical mechanism is proposed which similar to that proposed by Gupta *et al* in the ethanol inhibition of the Co catalysed reaction [33-37].



In the mechanism, no role is assigned to O_2^- , which is also known to react with sulfur (IV) slowly. It may disproportionate to form H_2O_2 and O_2 or may be scavenged by impurities²¹. By assuming long chain hypothesis and steady state approximation $d[\text{SO}_3]/dt$, $d[\text{SO}_4]/dt$ and $d[\text{SO}_5]/dt$ to zero it can be shown that the rate of initiation is equal to the rate of termination.

$$k_1[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3(\text{SO}_3^{-2})(\text{O}_2)] = \{k_7[\text{X}] + k_8[\text{Malonic acid}]\} [\text{SO}_4^{-1}] \quad (26)$$

Since the reaction is completely stopped in the presence of [malonic acid] at $1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$. so The steps (15) & (19) appear to be unimportant. The contribution of propagation reaction (18) been significant in the Co_2O_3 catalysed. Reaction where the autoxidation reaction should have occurred even in the presence of high malonic acid concentration. But this is not true and the reaction is completely seized in the presence of high concentration of malonic acid. This led us to ignore the step (18) and assume only the rate of reaction given by equation

(24). Since we observe a clean cut first order in $[S(IV)]$, The value of $K_1 [S(IV)] \ll 1$ so the above rate law can be reduce to

$$R_{cat} = \frac{k_1 [CO_2O_3] [S(IV)]}{\{k_9[X] + k_{10}[\text{Malonic acid}]\}} \quad (27)$$

Gupta et al and Sharma et al proposed a similar mechanism for the CoO catalysed autoxidation of sulfur dioxide inhibited by ethanol, which lead to the same rate law. By comparing derived rate law with the experimental rate law we observe the similarity in these two.

The calculated value of inhibition constant B is $2.81 \times 10^5 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ L}$. which is in the range of 10^3 to 10^4 . So on the base of calculated value of B , we concluded that malonic acid act as a free radical scavenger in the Co_2O_3 catalysed autoxidation of aqueous sulfur dioxide in alkaline medium and a free radical mechanism can operate in this system.

VI. Conclusions

The role of malonic acid act as an inhibitor in Co_2O_3 catalysed autoxidation of SO_2 in alkaline medium has been found, and based on the observed results rate law a free radical mechanism has been proposed.

$$\frac{-d[S(IV)]}{dt} = \frac{(k_1 + k_2[CO_2O_3]) [S(IV)]}{1 + B [\text{Malonic acid}]}$$

Based on the experimental results, rate constants and orders of the reactions were determined. The reaction order in SO_2 was pseudo-first order for both reactions in the presence and absence of malonic acid.

VII. FUTURE SCOPE

The results are useful for modeling rain water acidity and therefore a great use of meteorology and atmospheric chemistry. This study is important in understanding the mechanism of the atmospheric oxidation of $S(IV)$ by O_2 .

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Conflict of Interest: Nil

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