

# COPYROLYSIS OF DIMETHYL ETHER AND METHANE UNDER PULSED ADIABATIC COMPRESSION

I. V. Bilera

A. V. Topchiev Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis, Russian Academy of Sciences, 29 Leninsky Prosp., Moscow 119991, Russian Federation

**Abstract:** The copyrolysis of dimethyl ether (DME) and methane has been studied in a rapid compression machine over a range of temperature 1030–1860 K and the degree of conversion 0.15%–96.1%. When comparing the data obtained and the results of the previous study of impulsive pyrolysis of DME, it was found that the compositions of the mixtures of products coincide qualitatively, the addition of methane to DME does not have a noticeable effect on the degree of conversion, but affects the yields of products, especially at temperatures above 1700 K. It is shown that ethylene yield remains constant in the temperature range 1700–1860 K at the degree of conversion higher than 95% along with the decrease of ethane yield and the increase of acetylene yield.

**Keywords:** dimethyl ether (DME); methane, pyrolysis; rapid compression machine (RCM); formaldehyde; ethylene; acetylene

**DOI:** 10.30826/CE19120205

## Acknowledgments

The work was performed within the State Task to the Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

## References

- Semelsberger, T.A., R. L. Borup, and H. L. Greene. 2006. Dimethyl ether (DME) as an alternative fuel. *J. Power Sources* 156:497–511. doi: 10.1016/j.jpowsour.2005.05.082.
- Gayvoronskiy, A. I., V. A. Markov, and Yu. V. Ilatovskiy. 2007. *Ispol'zovanie prirodnogo gaza i drugikh al'ternativnykh topliv v dizel'nykh dvigatelyakh* [Utilization of natural gas and other alternative fuels in Diesel engines]. Moscow: Gazprom Publ. 480 p.
- Park, S. H., and C. S. Lee. 2014. Applicability of dimethyl ether (DME) in a compression ignition engine as an alternative fuel. *Energ. Convers. Manage.* 86:848–863. doi: 10.1016/j.enconman.2014.06.051.
- Marchionna, M., R. Patrini, D. Sanfilippo, and G. Migliavacca. 2008. Fundamental investigations on di-methyl ether (DME) as LPG substitute or make-up for domestic uses. *Fuel Process. Technol.* 89(12):1255–1261. doi: 10.1016/j.fuproc.2008.07.013.
- Wang, Y., G. Li, W. Zhu, and L. Zhou. 2008. Study on the application of DME/diesel blends. *Fuel Process. Technol.* 89(12):1272–1280. doi: 10.1016/j.fuproc.2008.05.023.
- Lossing, F. P., K. U. Ingold, and A. W. Tickner. 1953. Free radicals by mass spectrometry. Part II. — The thermal decomposition of ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, dimethyl ether, and dioxane. *Discuss. Faraday Soc.* 14:34–44. doi: 10.1039/DF9531400034.
- Anderson, K. H., and S. W. Benson. 1962. Termination products and processes in the pyrolysis of dimethyl ether. *J. Chem. Phys.* 36(9):2320–2323. doi: 10.1063/1.1732883.
- Zhao, Z., M. Chaos, A. Kazakov, and F. L. Dryer. 2008. Thermal decomposition reaction and a comprehensive kinetic model of dimethyl ether. *Int. J. Chem. Kinet.* 40(1):1–18. doi: 10.1002/kin.20285.
- Bilera, I. V., and S. N. Khadzhev. 2018. Gomogennyy piroliz dimetilovogo efira v usloviyakh adiabaticheskogo szhatiya [The homogeneous pyrolysis of dimethyl ether under pulsed adiabatic compression]. *Goren. Vzryv (Mosk.) — Combustion and Explosion* 11(1):27–34. doi: 10.30826/CE18110103.
- Sivaramakrishnan, R., J. V. Michael, A. F. Wagner, R. Dawes, A. W. Jasper, L. B. Harding, Y. Georgievskii, and S. J. Klippenstein. 2011. Roaming radicals in the thermal decomposition of dimethyl ether: Experiment and theory. *Combust. Flame* 158(4):618–632. doi: 10.1016/j.combustflame.2010.12.017.
- Chen, Z., X. Qin, Y. Ju, Z. Zhao, M. Chaos, and F. L. Dryer. 2007. High temperature ignition and combustion enhancement by dimethyl ether addition to methane–air mixtures. *P. Combust. Inst.* 31(1):1215–1222. doi: 10.1016/j.proci.2006.07.177.
- Yu, H., E. Hu, Y. Cheng, X. Zhang, and Z. Huang. 2014. Experimental and numerical study of laminar premixed dimethyl ether/methane–air flame. *Fuel* 136:37–45. doi: 10.1016/j.fuel.2014.07.032.
- Amano, T., and F. L. Dryer. 1998. Effect of dimethyl ether, NO<sub>x</sub>, and ethane on CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation: High pressure, intermediate-temperature experiments and model-

- ing. *P. Combust. Inst.* 27:397–404. doi: 10.1016/S0082-0784(98)80428-1.
14. Tang, C., L. Wei, J. Zhang, Z. Man, and Z. Huang. 2012. Shock tube measurement and kinetic investigation on the ignition delay times of methane/dimethyl ether mixtures. *Energ. Fuel.* 26(11):6720–6728. doi: 10.1021/ef301339m.
  15. Burke, U., K. P. Somers, P. O'Toole, C. M. Zinner, N. Marquet, G. Bourque, E. L. Petersen, W. K. Metcalfe, Z. Serinyel, and H. J. Curran. 2015. An ignition delay and kinetic modeling study of methane, dimethyl ether, and their mixtures at high pressures. *Combust. Flame* 162(2):315–330. doi: 10.1016/j.combustflame.2014.08.014.
  16. Yoon, S. S., D. H. Ahn, and S. H. Chung. 2008. Synergistic effect of mixing dimethyl ether with methane, ethane, propane, and ethylene fuels on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon and soot formation. *Combust. Flame* 154(3):368–377. doi: 10.1016/j.combustflame.2008.04.019.
  17. Wang, Y., H. Liu, X. Ke, and Z. Shen. 2017. Kinetic modeling study of homogeneous ignition of dimethyl ether/hydrogen and dimethyl ether/methane. *Appl. Therm. Eng.* 119:373–386. doi: 10.1016/j.applthermaleng.2017.03.065.
  18. Batt, L., G. Alvarado-Salinas, and I. A. B. Reid. 1982. The pyrolysis of dimethyl ether and formaldehyde. *P. Combust. Inst.* 19:81–87. doi: 10.1016/S0082-0784(82)80180-X.
  19. Wang, Y., and C. Liu. 2005. Plasma methane conversion in the presence of dimethyl ether using dielectric-barrier discharge. *Energ. Fuel.* 19(3):877–881. doi: 10.1021/ef049823q.
  20. Samojlovich, V. G., V. I. Gibalov, and K. V. Kozlov. 1989. *Fizicheskaya khimiya bar'ernogo razryada* [Physical chemistry of dielectric barrier discharge]. Moscow: MSU Publ. 176 p.
  21. Kolbanovskiy, Yu. A., V. S. Shchipachev, N. Ya. Chernyak, et al. 1982. *Impul'snoe szhatie gazov v khimii i tekhnologii* [Impulsive compression of gases in chemistry and technology]. Moscow: Nauka. 240 p.
  22. Cool, T. A., J. Wang, N. Hansen, P. R. Westmoreland, F. L. Dryer, Z. Zhao, A. Kazakov, T. Kasper, and K. Kohse-Höinghaus. 2006. Photoionization mass spectrometry and modeling studies of the chemistry of fuel-rich dimethyl ether flames. *P. Combust. Inst.* 31(1):285–293. doi: 10.1016/j.proci.2006.08.044.
  23. Hidaka, Y., K. Sato, and M. Yamane. 2000. High-temperature pyrolysis of dimethyl ether in shock waves. *Combust. Flame* 123(1):1–22. doi: 10.1016/S0010-2180(00)00122-X.
  24. Bilera, I. V., and N. N. Buravtsev. 2016. Gomogennyy piroliz izopentana v usloviyakh adiabaticheskogo szhatiya [The homogeneous pyrolysis of isopentane under pulsed adiabatic compression]. *Goren. Vzryv (Mosk.) — Combustion and Explosion* 9(1):74–82.

Received January 18, 2019

## Contributor

**Bilera Igor V.** (b. 1968) — Candidate of Science in chemistry, leading research scientist, A. V. Topchiev Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis, Russian Academy of Sciences, 29 Leninsky Prosp., Moscow 119991, Russian Federation; bilera@ips.ac.ru