University of Belgrade Technical Faculty in Bor and Mining and Metallurgy Institute Bor

48th International
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on Mining and Metallurgy



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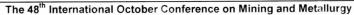
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KINETICS OF GIBBSITE LEACHING IN SODIUM HYDROXIDE AQUEOUS SOLUTION

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Abstract

In order to study the kinetics and mechanism of the reaction, laboratory leaching was carried industrially produced gibbsite γ -Al(OH) $_3$ in aqueous solutions containing an excess of sodium by The results obtained reaction temperature, duration and base concentration varied. The base parameters were determined from: the reaction rate constant $k=8.72\cdot10^7\exp{(-74990/RT)}$ and the activation in the range $E_a=72.5-96.81kJ/mol$.

Keywords: leaching; mass transfer; kinetics; activation energy.

1. INTRODUCTION

Gibbsite leaching in an aqueous solution of NaOH is a heterogeneous process constitution chemical reaction and mass transfer to the boundary reaction area. Both processes may comprise a whole series of individual stages: it is generally known that the stage with the rate determines the total reaction rate [1, 2]. In heterogeneous reactions where mass transplays an important role, the variables are numerous and complex [3, 4]. The reaction influenced to a large extentby the positions of the phase boundary areas, which are determined by the structure of the solid, the despersion level, porosity and geometricals the reacting particles [5, 6]. Determinations of the reaction rate in a heterogeneous pesides being of practical importance, provides the possibility of theoretical by explain rate constants and process development mechanism, which was the aim of this study in the leaching process in industrial gibbsite was examined.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

Gibbsite γ-Al(OH)₃, produced industrially according to the Bayer process, was find distilled water until a negative reaction to phenolphthalein was attained, and then drie stream at 80°C. Grain size analysis was carried out with standard sieves for particles up The composition of the gibbsite sample was determined by chemical analysis: 63.78 34.26% H₂O; 0.55 SiO₂; 0.97% Na₂O and other impurities (TiO₂; ZnO; P₂O₅; MnO 100%. Na₂O may be due to the excess of rinse base, sodium aluminium silicate (to presence of O₂) or to the base built the gibbsite crystal itself.

Identification of gibbsite from DTA curves was carried out on the basis of endothermal at 275°C, 375°C and 560°C. Total mass loss of 34.31wt% was observed in the ten interval from 25-1000°C by thermogravimetry. Pure gibbsite phase was identified on the the d values and the corresponding intensities in the X-ray patterns. The infrared spectre sample indicated gibbsite on the basis of two absorption bands: $\upsilon(OH)$ at 3500 and 3 and $\delta(OH)$ at 975 and 1025 cm⁻¹. In order to study the leaching kinetics in industrial according to the reaction:

 $Al(OH)_3^{(s)} + OH^- \rightarrow Al(OH)_4^-$

tions, ρ =145.7-307.75 g/cm³; leaching duration, τ =300-900s. The following parameters witconstant: grain-size composition, volume of NaOH solution (0.250dm³), gibbsite mass atom mixture volume (80g/dm³), stirring rate (1 s⁻¹). The experiment was carried out in a wided flask (0.5dm³) immersed in an oil bath to reach the operating temperature, the flask pupped with a thermometer and stirrer. The experimental method enabled the course of the discount of the followed under isothermal conditions from the beginning by determining the in Al₂O₃ concentration in the liquid phase. The volumetric method according to mass used for analysis.

SULTS AND DISCUSSION

lows the changes in Al_2O_3 concentration with time. The curves show that the reaction rate is with increasing temperature. At lower temperatures, lower concentrations and deleaching duration, the curves tend to increase slowly. At higher temperatures, the increase more a abruptly, while at the highest temperature (363K) the reaction reached add in very short time.

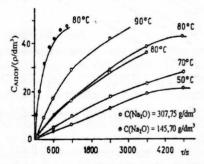
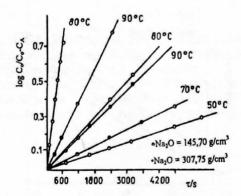


Figure 1 - ρ- τ curve of gibbsite leaching in NaOH solution

representation of the dependence of the logarithmic change in Al₂O₃ concentration me yields straight lines as it is illustrated in Fig.2.



R2-Logarithmic changes of Al₂O₃ concentration for gibbsite leaching reaction in NaOH solution

highest dispersion of the results was noticed for the highest NaOH concentration 17.75g/dm³). This result may deviate due to a relatively high reaction rate at high NaOH

concentrations. It takes a certain time to initiate and to stop a chemical reaction, so the sample error is greater if the reaction mechanism could change at higher concentrations, so that assumed kinetic equation would no longer correspond to the actual mechanism.

Fitting of the Kazaev equation: $\alpha=1$ - exp (-K· τ^n) to the data by means of the least squ method (Fig.5 and Fig.6) yielded the parameter n, the values of which ranged from 0.89 to 1 (mean value 0.98±0.08). According to Kazaev, the parameter n is determined by the mechano of process development. For values greater than or equal to 1 the process takes place in kinetic area and for smaller than 1 (n=0.5) in the diffusion area. As the mean value n=0.91 very close to 1, it may be assumed that the gibbsite digestion process takes place in the kindarea, i.e. the chemical reaction rate determines the total process rate [3,4].

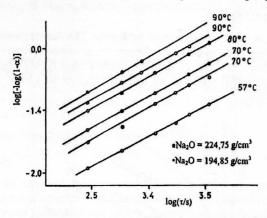


Figure 3 - The dependence of log [-log (1- α)] vs. log (τ) for gibbsite leaching reaction in NaOH solutions

The gibbsite leaching reaction rate at Na₂O concentrations of 145.70g/dm³ and 224.75g doubles if the temperature increases 10 K. At 307.75 g/dm³ of Na₂O the rate increases times. This agrees with the known empirical fact indicated by Van't Hoff for reactions there of which are determined by the reaction stage. The Arrhenius plot of the temperature depends of the rate constants is shown in Fig 3. The results of the least square computations are present Table 1.

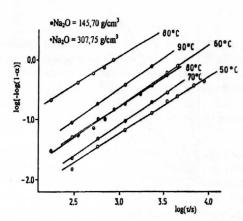


Figure 3 - Dependence of log k vs.1/T for gibbsite leaching in NaOH solution of varying concentral

Table 1 - Process activation energy for gibbsite leaching

ρ (Na ₂ O) (g/dm ³)	Ea (kJ/mol)
145.70	72.57
194.85	75.97
224.75	76.45
307.75	96.81

ativation energy gradually increases with increasing NaOH concentration up to the atration of 224.75 g/dm 3 Na $_2$ O and at concentration of 307.75 g/dm 3 g/dm 3 Na $_2$ O the aton energy is much higher. This could also be due to errors in determination of the atration. The variation in the activation energy due to base concentration changes, which will in the concentration interval from 145.70 to 224.75 g/dm 3 Na $_2$ O, allow calculation of an activation energy for this concentration range Ea=74.99±3.7kJ/mol. The effect of the denomination upon the leaching reaction rate was not quantitatively studied, because the prof NaOH was not determined, which would be necessary for exact measurements, as and Schorford and Glastonbury [3].

ONCLUSION

at the highest base concentration (307.75g/dm³Na₂O). This fact might be due to the mental errors in determination of the concentration or to changes in the reaction mism. The calculated value for parameter n of the Kazaeev equation is 0.98±0.08, which are that the gibbsite leaching reaction takes place in the kinetic area, i.e. the chemical material etermines the total process rate. The gibbsite leaching reaction rate doubles if the mature increases by 10 K in the base concentration range from 145.70 to 224.75 g/dm³ which is in accordance with the well-known empirical fact reactions the rates of which are mined by the chemical reaction rate. The average activation energy value for the gibbsite ton process, calculated using the Arrhenius equation, has the fallowing form: 7.10° exp(-74990/RT).

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