

## Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> Catalysed and Uncatalysed autoxidation of S (IV) and its inhibition by different organics in alkaline Medium

Himanshu Sharma<sup>1</sup>, D.S.N. Prasad<sup>1</sup>

Department of Chemistry, Govt. P. G. College,  
Jhalawar- 326001, Rajasthan (India)

Upendra Singh, Department of Chemistry, Raj Rishi College Alwar,

Madhu Sharma, Department of Chemistry, Govt G. D. College Alwar

\*Corresponding Author E-mail: [dsn308@gmail.com](mailto:dsn308@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** In this paper we report that acetic acid and oxalic acid are good inhibitor for SO<sub>2</sub> oxidation in pH range 7.80- 9.40 in the presence of Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Based on the observed results following rate law given and a free radical mechanism has been proposed.

$$d[S(IV)]/dt = (k_1 + k_2[Co_2O_3])[S(IV)]/1 + B[Organics]$$

Experiments were carried out at 30 ≤ T °C ≤ 40, 7.80 ≤ pH ≤ 9.40, 1 × 10<sup>-3</sup> mol/cm<sup>3</sup> ≤ [S(IV)] ≤ 6 × 10<sup>-3</sup> mol/cm<sup>3</sup>, 0.1 gm dm<sup>-3</sup> ≤ [Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>] ≤ 0.5 gm dm<sup>-3</sup>, 1 × 10<sup>-7</sup> mol/cm<sup>3</sup> ≤ [organics] ≤ 2 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mol/cm<sup>3</sup>, Rate constants and order of reaction were calculated and found pseudo- first order in all cases. The effect of pH and temperature were also discussed.

**Keywords:** Kinetics; Autoxidation; SO<sub>2</sub>; Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>; Catalysis; Inhibition; organics {acetic acid, oxalic acid}

### INTRODUCTION:-

The atmospheric reactions of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> etc. are major acid rain precursors and are responsible for acidification of various forms of atmospheric water [1]. Studies of our country, the level of SO<sub>2</sub> in atmospheric environment is increasing gradually and therefore the danger of acid rain cannot be simply under estimated [2]. Studies in India and abroad have shown that anthropogenic sources in the atmosphere are the major contributors of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> which are transformed in to acids such as HNO<sub>2</sub>, HNO<sub>3</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

The catalytic role of several metal oxides such as CoO[3]; Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>[4]; Ni<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>[5]; CuO[6]; MnO<sub>2</sub>[7]; and Cu<sub>2</sub>O[8] in acidic medium has been reported. The S (IV) autoxidation reaction is known to proceed via both radical and non-radical mechanisms (Gupta et al) [9].

An interesting feature of many radical reactions is that, the reaction rate is inhibited by organics such as acetic acid, oxalic acid (Irena Wilkoszet al) [10], alcohols (Ziajka et al) [11], carboxylic acid (Bostjan podkrojsek et al) [12], and ammonia (Gupta et al) [13], formic acid, isopropyl alcohol, isoamyl alcohol, aniline, benzamide, sodium benzoate (Sharma et al) [14-19].

In Indian sub-continent, the pH of the rain water lies in the range 6.5-8.5. 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 [20-21].

This necessitates the study of autoxidation of sulfur (IV) in alkaline medium. In most of the studies the role of organics has been reported in the metal ion catalysed autoxidation of sulfur(IV) in aqueous medium [22-23]. Since in this paper we present the comparison of oxalic acid and acetic acid to know better inhibitor for SO<sub>2</sub> oxidation in alkaline medium in Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysed reaction. But still combined effect of organic compounds like alcohols and amines are not studied yet so more work is to be need in this area to understand SO<sub>2</sub> inhibition, Since it is planned to study the kinetics of Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysed oxidation of S(IV) by O<sub>2</sub> in alkaline medium in the presence of two organics i.e. oxalic acid and acetic acid to examine their effect on the reaction rate.

### EXPERIMENTAL

The experimental procedure was exactly the equivalent to described earlier by Prasad et al [24]. All chemicals substances utilized were of reagent grade and their solution were ready in double distill water. The reactions were directed in 0.15-L Erlenmeyer flasks, open to air and to permit the part of atmospheric oxygen. The flask was placed in a beaker, which had a inlet at the lower part and an outlet at the upper part for circulating thermostatic water for keeping up with the desired temperature, 30 ± 0.1 °C. The reaction were started by adding the desired volume of standard Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> solution for the reaction combination containing different added substances like buffer and catalyst oxide. The reaction mixture was stirred continuously and magnetically at 1600 ± 100 rpm to

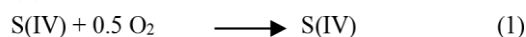
permit the part of atmospheric oxygen and to save the reaction from becoming oxygen mass exchange controlled. The kinetics were concentrated in buffered medium, in which the pH remained fixed all through the whole course of reaction. For this reason, 10 cm<sup>3</sup> of buffer medium from Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (0.08 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>) and KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (0.02 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>) for basic alkaline medium were used (complete volume 100 cm<sup>3</sup>) for getting the desired pH.

The kinetic were followed by withdrawing the aliquot examples periodically and titrating the unreacted S(IV) iodometrically in slightly acidic medium as described earlier. The reproducibility of the replicate measurements was generally better than compared to  $\pm 10\%$ . All calculations were performed in MS Excel.

### PRODUCT ANALYSIS-

When the reaction was complete, Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> was filtered out and sulphate was estimated gravimetrically by precipitating sulphate ions as BaSO<sub>4</sub> using standard procedure [25].

The product analysis showed the recovery of sulphate to be 98 $\pm$ 2%, in all cases in agreement with eq. (1)



### Results: Preliminary Investigation—

The kinetics of both uncatalysed and Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> Catalysed reaction were studied in alkaline medium in pH 7.80-9.40 and temperature 30°C. In both of the cases, the first order dependence of S(IV) was observed in the kinetics data treatment for the determination of pseudo first order rate constant  $k_1$  was calculated from log [S(IV)] versus time, t. The plots were shown in fig 1 From the fig 1 it is observed that both the uncatalysed and Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysed autoxidation of S (IV) reaction are inhibited by oxalic acid and acetic acid respectively.

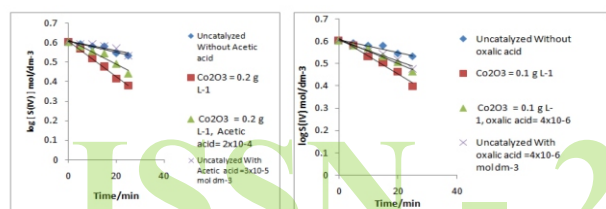


Fig.1 The disappearance of [S(IV)] with time in air saturated suspensions at [S(IV)] =  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup> at pH = 7.80, t = 30 °C

### Uncatalysed Reaction

In this study the reaction was studied without adding Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. As it is well known that the uncatalysed reaction is started by the trace metal particle impurities present in the reagent samples and distilled water utilized for the preparation of solution.

### Dependence of S (IV)

The detailed dependence of the reaction rate on [S(IV)] was studied by varying sulphite is the range of  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup> to  $6 \times 10^{-3}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup> at pH= 7.80, t = 30°C in phosphate buffer medium. The kinetic was found to be first order in [S(IV)] as shown in Fig 1 and log [S(IV)] versus time plots were linear. The values of first order rate constant,  $k_1$  are shown in table -1. The dependence of reaction rate on [S(IV)] follows the following rate law (2).

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

**Table 1** The values of  $k_1$  for uncatalysed reaction at different [S(IV)] at pH = 7.80, t = 30 °C CH<sub>3</sub>COONa =  $8 \times 10^{-2}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> CH<sub>3</sub>COOH =  $2 \times 10^{-2}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>

[S(IV)] mol dm <sup>-3</sup>	0.001	0.002	0.003	0.004
(10 <sup>4</sup> ) $k_1$ s <sup>-1</sup>	1.06	1.07	1.01	1.05

### [Organics] Dependence

The major aim of this study was to examine the effect of oxalic acid and acetic acid which are known as organics on the autoxidation of S(IV) in buffer medium and varying the [Organics] from  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup> to  $2 \times 10^{-4}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup> we observed the rate of the reaction decreased by increasing [Organics] The results are given in Table 2.

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

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

The values of  $k_{inh}$  at different [organics] are given in table 2 **Table 2** The values of  $k_{inh}$  at different [Organics] at pH = 7.80, t = 30 °C CH<sub>3</sub>COONa =  $8 \times 10^{-2}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> CH<sub>3</sub>COOH =  $2 \times 10^{-2}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>.

[acetic acid] mol dm <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>4</sup> $k_{AA}$ s <sup>-1</sup>	1/ $k_{AA}$ s	[oxalic acid] mol dm <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>4</sup> $k_{OA}$ s <sup>-1</sup>	1/ $k_{OA}$ s
$1.0 \times 10^{-7}$	3.82	2617	$1.0 \times 10^{-7}$	3.65	2740
$3.0 \times 10^{-7}$	3.19	3134	$3.0 \times 10^{-7}$	3.12	3205
$2.0 \times 10^{-6}$	2.60	3846	$2.0 \times 10^{-6}$	2.10	4761
$5.0 \times 10^{-6}$	2.21	4524	$5.0 \times 10^{-6}$	1.80	5556
$1.0 \times 10^{-5}$	1.02	803	$8.0 \times 10^{-6}$	1.39	7194
$3.0 \times 10^{-5}$	0.94	10638	$1.0 \times 10^{-5}$	0.47	21276
			$3.0 \times 10^{-5}$	0.31	32258

The value of first order rate constant  $k_{inh}$  in the presence of organics decreased with increasing [organics] in agreement with the rate law.

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

Where B is inhibition parameter for rate inhibition by organics

The equation (4) on rearrangement becomes

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

In accordance with the equation (5) the plot of  $1/k_{inh}$  v/s [oxalic acid] and [acetic acid] was found to be

linear with positive intercept. The values of intercept ( $1/k_i$ ) and slope ( $B/k_i$ ) were found to be  $1.7 \times 10^3 \text{ mol dm}^{-3} \text{ s}$  and  $1.33 \times 10^5$  and  $3.6 \times 10^3 \text{ s}$  and  $2.68 \times 10^7 \text{ mol dm}^{-3} \text{ s}$  at  $\text{pH} = 7.80$ ,  $t = 30^\circ \text{C}$  respectively. From these values the value of inhibition parameter  $B$  was found to be  $7.51 \times 10^3 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  and  $7.36 \times 10^3 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  respectively

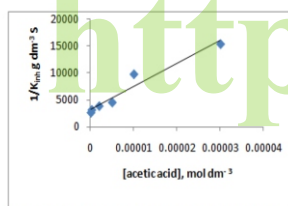


Fig. 2 Effect of acetic acid at  $[S(IV)] = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ ,  $\text{pH} = 7.80$  and  $\text{temp} = 30^\circ \text{C}$ , in phosphate buffered medium

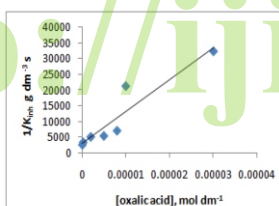


Fig. 3 Effect of acetic acid at  $[S(IV)] = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ ,  $\text{pH} = 7.80$  and  $\text{temp} = 30^\circ \text{C}$ , in phosphate buffered medium

### $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3$ Catalysed Reaction

The kinetics of  $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3$  Catalysed autoxidation of  $S(IV)$  was studied in alkaline medium in the absence of inhibitor oxalic acid and acetic acid respectively.

#### $[S(IV)]$ Variation

The dependence of  $S(IV)$  on reaction rate was studied by varying  $[S(IV)]$  from  $1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  to  $9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  at two different but fixed  $[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3]$  of 0.1 and 0.2  $\text{g dm}^{-3}$  at  $\text{pH} = 7.80$ ,  $t = 30^\circ \text{C}$ . The kinetics was found to be first order in  $[S(IV)]$  v/s time were linear as shown in Fig 1.

#### $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3$ variations

The dependence of  $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3$  on the reaction rate was studied by varying  $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3$  from 0.1 and 0.2  $\text{g dm}^{-3}$  at  $S(IV) = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$   $\text{pH} = 7.80$ ,  $t = 30^\circ \text{C}$  in alkaline buffer medium. The values of first order rate constant  $k_{\text{cat}}$  for  $S(IV)$  oxidation was determine are shown in fig 4. The nature of dependence of  $k_{\text{cat}}$  on  $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3$  was indicated as two term rate law (6)

$$-d[S(IV)]/dt = k_{\text{cat}}[S(IV)] = (k_1 + k_2[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3])[S(IV)] \quad (6)$$

$$\text{Or } k_{\text{cat}} = k_1 + k[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3] \quad (7)$$

From the plot in fig 4 the values of intercept is equal to  $k_1$  and slope is equal to  $k_2$  were found to be  $3.9 \times 10^3 \text{ s}$  and  $3.6 \times 10^3 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  respectively at  $\text{pH} = 7.80$ ,  $t = 30^\circ \text{C}$ , in alkaline buffered medium.

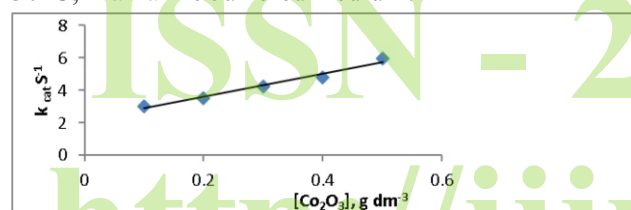


Fig. 4 The dependence of catalyst concentration at  $[S(IV)] = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$   $\text{pH} = 7.80$ ,  $t = 30^\circ \text{C}$ , in alkaline buffered medium.

### Rate law in the Presence of organics

A detailed study of dependence of rate on  $S(IV)$ ,  $[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3]$  and  $\text{pH}$  with in the presence of organics {oxalic acid and acetic acid} revealed that the kinetics remain first order both in  $S(IV)$  and  $[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3]$  and independence of  $\text{pH}$  obeys the following rate law.

$$-d[S(IV)]/dt = (k_1 + k_2[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3])[S(IV)]/1 + B(\text{Organics}) \quad (8)$$

$$\text{Where } k_{\text{inh}} = (k_1 + k_2[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3])/1 + B(\text{Organics}) = k_{\text{cat}}/1 + B(\text{Organics}) \quad (9)$$

$$1/k_{\text{inh}} = 1 + B(\text{Organics})/k_{\text{cat}} \quad (10)$$

$$1/k_{\text{inh}} = 1/k_{\text{cat}} + B(\text{Organics})/k_{\text{cat}} \quad (11)$$

Table 3 The values of  $k_{\text{cat}}$  at different  $[\text{Organics}]$  at  $[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3] = 0.1 \text{ g dm}^{-3}$ ,  $\text{pH} = 7.80$ ,  $t = 30^\circ \text{C}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{COONa} = 8 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

[acetic acid] $\text{mol dm}^{-3}$	$10^4 k_{\text{cat}} \text{ s}^{-1}$	$1/k_{\text{cat}} \text{ s}$	[oxalic acid] $\text{mol dm}^{-3}$	$k_{\text{cat}} \text{ s}^{-1}$	$1/k_{\text{cat}} \text{ s}$
$1.0 \times 10^{-2}$	5.93	1686	$1.0 \times 10^{-2}$	4.87	2053
$2.0 \times 10^{-2}$	4.27	2341	$2.0 \times 10^{-2}$	3.71	2695
$4.0 \times 10^{-2}$	3.91	2557	$4.0 \times 10^{-2}$	3.12	3205
$6.0 \times 10^{-2}$	3.71	2695	$6.0 \times 10^{-2}$	2.86	3496
$2.0 \times 10^{-6}$	3.30	3030	$2.0 \times 10^{-6}$	2.18	4587
$4.0 \times 10^{-6}$	2.04	3289	$4.0 \times 10^{-6}$	2.10	4761
$8.0 \times 10^{-6}$	2.35	4255	$8.0 \times 10^{-6}$	1.36	7352
$1 \times 10^{-5}$	2.07	4830	$1 \times 10^{-5}$	0.57	17543
$5 \times 10^{-4}$	1.98	5050			

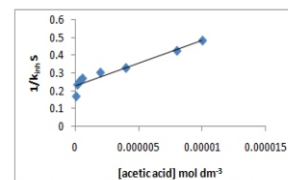


Fig 5 Plot of  $1/k_{\text{obs}}[\text{acetic acid}]$  at  $[S(IV)] = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ ,  $\text{temp} = 30^\circ \text{C}$ ,  $[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3] = 0.1 \text{ g}$ , and  $\text{pH} = 7.80$  in phosphate buffered medium

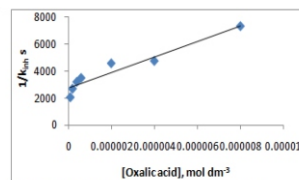


Fig 6 Plot of  $1/k_{\text{obs}}[\text{oxalic acid}]$  at  $[S(IV)] = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ ,  $\text{temp} = 30^\circ \text{C}$ ,  $[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3] = 0.1 \text{ g}$ , and  $\text{pH} = 7.80$  in phosphate buffered medium

From Fig. 5 & Fig. 6 graph the value of  $B_{\text{AA}}$  and  $B_{\text{OA}}$  are found as  $3.5 \times 10^3 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  and  $5.78 \times 10^3 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  respectively.

#### Variation of pH

Variation of  $\text{pH}$  was carried out from 7.80-9.40 at different  $[S(IV)]$ ,  $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3$  [oxalic acid], [acetic acid] and temperatures. The rate decreases slightly by varying  $\text{pH}$  is inverse  $\text{H}^+$  ion dependence was observed. From the plot of  $\log k_i$  v/s  $\log (\text{H}^+)$ . The effect of [buffer] was examined by varying the concentration of both  $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$  &  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  so that the ratio  $[\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4]/[\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4]$  remained same, so  $\text{pH}$  remained fixed. The values showed that the rate of reaction to be insensitive to the buffer concentration. The results are given table-3

Table-3 Effect of  $\text{pH}$  at  $[S(IV)] = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  at  $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3 = 0.2 \text{ g dm}^{-3}$  [acetic acid] =  $2.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  [oxalic acid] =  $4.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$

$\text{pH}$	7.80	8.50	8.90	9.40
$10^4 k_{\text{AA}} \text{ s}^{-1}$	2.31	2.92	2.86	2.92
$10^4 k_{\text{OA}} \text{ s}^{-1}$	2.27	2.73	2.52	2.44

#### Effect of temperature

The values of  $k_{\text{obs}}$  were determined at different temperatures in the range of  $30^\circ \text{C}$  to  $40^\circ \text{C}$ . The results are given in Table 4. By plotting a graph between  $\log k$  v/s  $1/t$  yield us an apparent empirical energy of activation  $89.57 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  and  $87.40 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  in the



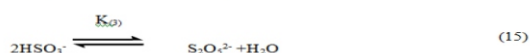
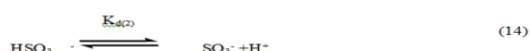
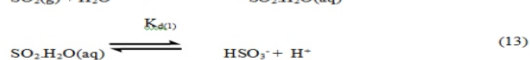
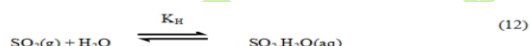
presence of oxalic acid and acetic acid respectively.

**Table 4** Effect of temperature at  $[S(IV)] = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  at  $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3 = 0.2 \text{ g dm}^{-3}$  [oxalic acid] =  $4 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  [acetic acid] =  $2.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  pH=7.80.

t/°C	30°C	35°C	40°C
$10^4 k_{\text{obs}} \text{ s}^{-1}$	2.27	5.21	7.05
$10^4 k_{\text{a}} \text{ s}^{-1}$	2.31	5.19	6.98

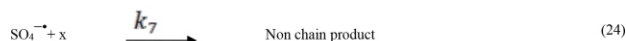
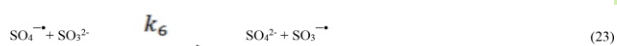
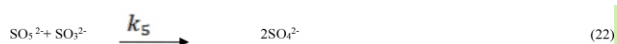
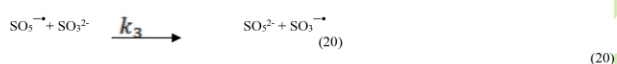
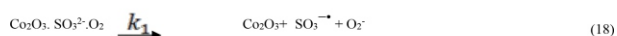
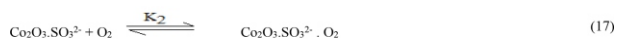
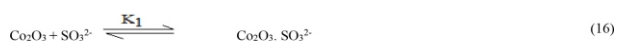
## 5. DISCUSSION:

In aqueous solution  $\text{SO}_2$  is present in four forms  $\text{SO}_2, \text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{HSO}_3^-, \text{SO}_3^{2-}, \text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$  governed by the following equations.



In this experimental study in pH range (7.80 - 9.40),  $S(IV)$  would be generally present as  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$ . Since the rate of reaction of under study not depends on pH, we have considered only  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$  species to be reactive.

In a several transition metal oxide catalysed heterogeneous aqueous phase autoxidation reactions of sulfur(IV), the development of surficial complexes by adsorption of sulfur(IV) and  $\text{O}_2$  on the molecule surface and oxidation of sulfur (IV) occur through the intervention of different oxidation states has been proposed. In the present study, the dependence of oxygen shows that the formation of surficial complex by adsorption of  $\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$  on the molecule surface of  $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3$  through the fast steps.



In alkaline medium the rate of  $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3$  catalysed reaction is highly decelerated by the addition of organics acetic acid and oxalic acid like that of reported by Husain et al [26-29] and like that of ethanol reported by Gupta et al [30] respectively. this shows the operation of a radical mechanism including oxy sulfur free radicals, as  $\text{SO}_3^{\cdot-}$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{\cdot-}$  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.

A reported by Sameena et al [31] a radical mechanism operates in those reaction in which the inhibition parameter lies the reach  $10^3$ - $10^4$ . In this investigation the value of the inhibitor parameter is found to be  $7.3 \times 10^3$  and  $7.5 \times 10^3$  in the presence of acetic acid and oxalic acid respectively, which lies in the same range. This strongly supports the radical mechanism for the  $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3$  - catalysed reaction in presence of organics. Based on the observed result including the inhibition by organics, the above radical mechanism is proposed which like that proposed by Prasad et al [32], Mudgal et al [33] in the oxalic acid and ethanol inhibition of the  $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3$  catalysed reaction respectively.

In the mechanism, no role is assigned to  $\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$ , which is additionally known to react with sulfur (IV) slowly. It might disproportionate to form  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{O}_2$  or may be scavenged by contaminations. In the present study the value of inhibition parameter for uncatalysed and  $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3$  catalysed autoxidation of  $S(IV)$  by acetic acid and oxalic acid are found to be in the range. This is strongly support the radical mechanism in the present case too based on the observed results.

By assuming long chain hypothesis and steady state approximation  $d[\text{SO}_3^{\cdot-}]/dt$ ,  $d[\text{SO}_4^{\cdot-}]/dt$  and  $d[\text{SO}_5^{\cdot-}]/dt$  to zero it can be shown that the rate of initiation is equivalent to the rate of termination. eq. 26

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

Since the reaction is completely stopped with the presence of [acetic acid] at  $1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  and [oxalic acid]  $1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  at so the steps (18) and (22) appear to be insignificant. The contribution of propagation reaction (21) has been signification in the  $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3$  catalysed. Reaction where the autoxidation

reaction should have not take place in the presence of high organics concentration i.e. the reaction is completely seized in the presence of high concentration of organics. This drove us to the rate of reaction given by equation (27).

$$-d[S(IV)]/dt = R_{cat} = k_6 [SO_4^{\cdot-}] [SO_3^{2-}] \quad (27)$$

By substituting the value of  $[SO_4^{\cdot-}]$  we get

$$R_{cat} = \frac{k_6 k_1 [Co_2O_3] [SO_3^{2-}] [O_2] [SO_3^{2-}]}{k_7 [x] + k_8 [organics]} \quad (28)$$

From equilibria 16 & 17

$$R_{cat} = \frac{k_6 k_1 [Co_2O_3] [S(IV)] [O_2]}{\{1 + k_1 [S(IV)]\} \{k_7 [x] + k_8 [organics]\}} \quad (29)$$

At fixed  $O_2$ , replacing  $k_6 k_1 k_2 [O_2]$  by  $k^1$  we get

$$R_{cat} = \frac{k^1 [Co_2O_3] [S(IV)]}{\{1 + k_1 [S(IV)]\} \{k_7 [x] + k_8 [organics]\}} \quad (30)$$

Since we observe a first order in  $[S(IV)]$ , the value of  $k_1 [S(IV)] \ll 1$  so the above rate law can be reduce to.

$$R_{cat} = \frac{k^1 [Co_2O_3] [SO_3^{2-}]}{K_7 [x] + k_8 [organics]} \quad (31)$$

Or  $R_{cat} = k^1 [Co_2O_3] [SO_3^{2-}] / K_7 [x] + k_8 [organics]$

Sharma et al [34-36] proposed a similar mechanism for the Ag(I) catalysed autoxidation of sulfur dioxide inhibition by organics, which lead to a similar rate law. By comparing derived rate law and the experimental rate law we observe the similarity in these two. The calculated value of inhibition constant  $B$  is  $3.5 \times 10^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ dm}^3$  and  $5.7 \times 10^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ dm}^3$  by acetic acid and oxalic acid respectively. which is in the range of  $10^3$  to  $10^4$ . So on the basis of the calculated value of  $B$ , we concluded that organics act as a free radical scavenger in the  $Co_2O_3$  catalysed autoxidation of aqueous sulfur dioxide in a alkaline medium and a free radical mechanism can operate in this system.

#### Conclusion-

The following conclusions are deduced from the results of the organics {oxalic acid and acetic acid} inhibited  $Co_2O_3$  catalysed autoxidation of  $S(IV)$  was that inhibit the oxidation with the fast influence. The value of Inhibition factor of both uncatalysed and  $Co_2O_3$  catalysed autoxidation of  $S(IV)$  in the present study are in the range of  $10^3 - 10^4$  which shows that free radical mechanism is operative. The value of inhibition factor ( $B$ ) of both uncatalysed and  $Co_2O_3$  catalysed autoxidation of  $SO_2$  in the presence of acetic

acid and oxalic acid study here found  $3.5 \times 10^3 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  and  $5.78 \times 10^3 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  which is confirm that oxalic acid is best inhibitor compare to acetic acid which is also coincide by  $E_a$  higher for oxalic acid compare to acetic acid.

#### Environmental Importance–

Organics are competent to inhibit the oxidation of  $SO_2$  so rain water acidity can be controlled. They increase the life span of  $SO_2$  so vegetation, national buildings, monuments, fishes of water bodies and human being are not affected by rain water acidity. 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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