

# Carbon Deposition in Heterogeneous Catalysis

# Introduction

Carbon deposition onto the surface of solid catalysts is commonly observed in hydrocarbon processing. Carbon deposits can affect both the activity of catalysts as well as the flow of gas through a catalyst bed.

This example investigates the thermal decomposition of methane into hydrogen and solid carbon with two models. In the first model, the isothermal process occurring in an ideal reactor is simulated with the Reaction Engineering interface. The influence of carbon deposition on catalyst activity is also considered. In the second model, the effect that the carbon deposits have on the porosity and the fluid flow is studied. The second simulation takes both time and space dependencies into account.

Model Definition

# CHEMISTRY

Methane decomposes over a Ni/Al2O3 catalyst according to the overall chemical reaction

$$CH_4 \rightarrow C + 2H_2$$
 (1)

Under atmospheric pressure, the temperate ranging from 490 °C to 590 °C and a volume fraction of hydrogen between 0 and 40%, the following reaction rate expression has been reported in the literature (Ref. 1):

$$r = k \cdot \frac{P_{\rm CH_4} - \frac{P_{\rm H_2}^2}{K_{\rm p}}}{(1 + k_{\rm H}\sqrt{P_{\rm H_2}})^2}$$
(2)

where

$$k = k_0 \cdot \exp\left(20.492 - \frac{1.042 \cdot 10^5 \text{ J/mol}}{R_g T}\right)$$
(3)  
$$k_H = \exp\left(\frac{1.632 \cdot 10^5 \text{ J/mol}}{R_g T} - 22.426\right)$$

and

#### 2 | CARBON DEPOSITION IN HETEROGENEOUS CATALYSIS

$$K_{\rm p} = 5.088 \cdot 10^5 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{9.12 \cdot 10^4 \, \text{J/(mol)}}{R_{\rm g}T}\right)$$

The constant  $k_0$  in Equation 3 is  $2.31 \cdot 10^{-5}$  mol/(m<sup>3</sup>·s), supposing the amount of catalyst being 1 g/m<sup>3</sup>. The unit for pressure in Equation 2 is bar.

# IDEAL REACTOR MODEL

This model treats the isothermal decomposition of methane (Figure 2) in a perfectly mixed batch reactor with constant volume. The species mass balances are summarized by

$$\frac{dc_i}{dt} = R_i$$

The rate term,  $R_i$  (SI unit: mol/(m<sup>3</sup>·s)) for each species, takes into account the reaction stoichiometry coefficients, v<sub>i</sub>, the reaction rate reported in Equation 2,  $r \mod/(m^3 \cdot s)$ , and the catalyst activity, a:

$$R_i = v_i r a$$

The mass balances of the reacting species are then

$$\frac{dc_{CH_4}}{dt} = -ra$$
$$\frac{dc_C}{dt} = ra$$
$$\frac{dc_{H_2}}{dt} = 2ra$$

The time dependence of the catalytic activity is expressed by

$$\frac{da}{dt} = -k_a r^2 c_C a$$

where

$$k_a = k_{a0} \cdot \exp\left(\frac{1.356 \cdot 10^5 \text{ J/mol}}{R_{g}T} - 32.007\right)$$

where  $k_{a0}$  is  $8.324 \cdot 10^6 (m^3/mol)^3$  s. Solving the mass balances provides the evolution of the species concentrations over time. The fact that carbon is in the solid phase is taken into

account by removing its effect on gas phase physical properties. The pressure in the reactor is a function of only the methane and hydrogen concentrations:

$$P = R_g T (c_{CH_4} + c_{H_2})$$

# SPACE- AND TIME-DEPENDENT MODEL

The second model takes fluid flow, mass transport, heat transfer, and the chemical reaction into account. It is created by the Generate Space-Dependent Model feature available in the Reaction Engineering interface.



Figure 1: Methane enters from the left and reacts in the porous catalytic bed. The wall of the bed is heated.

# EQUATIONS

:

The space-dependent model solves coupled momentum, mass, and energy balances together with a void fraction balance. The fluid flow is laminar, the concentrations high (no solvent is present), and porous media with variable porosity exist within the reactor. Additionally, the impact of heating is studied. The following physics interfaces are used in this example:

- Chemistry
- Transport of Concentrated Species
- Heat Transfer in Porous Media
- Laminar flow
- Domain ODEs and PDEs

The Domain ODEs and PDEs interface solves a balance for the void fraction, or porosity, of the bed given by

$$\frac{d\varepsilon}{dt} = -k_{\rm por} \cdot \frac{\varepsilon r M_C}{\rho_{\rm soot}}$$

where  $k_{por}$  is a constant,  $M_C$  (kg/mol) is the carbon molar weight, and  $\rho_{soot}$  (kg/m<sup>3</sup>) is the deposited carbon density. This equation can be implemented in the Domain ODEs and DAEs interface, resulting in a porosity distribution across the catalytic bed as a function of time. The initial porosity of the bed is assumed to be  $\varepsilon = 0.4$ .

The porosity is related to the permeability of the porous domain by (Ref. 2)

$$\kappa = \kappa_0 \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon_0}\right)^{3.55}$$

The reactor geometry (see Figure 1) is set up in 2D axisymmetry in the model as the angular gradients are negligible.

# Results and Discussion

### IDEAL REACTOR MODEL

Figure 2 shows the concentration transients of methane, hydrogen, and deposited carbon as methane decomposes over a  $Ni/Al_2O_3$  catalyst. Both the composition with and without catalyst deactivation are displayed. From the change in concentrations with time, the reaction rate with constant catalyst activity is shown to be larger than when catalyst deactivation is accounted for.



Figure 2: Concentration transients of methane decomposition over a Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst for two catalyst conditions: 1) deactivation; 2) constant activity.

Figure 3 shows the deactivation of catalyst during methane decomposition. The activity of catalyst decreases rapidly at the early stage of reaction, then decreases slowly.



Figure 3: Change of catalyst activity with reacting time.

# SPACE- AND TIME-DEPENDENT MODEL

Figure 4 shows the velocity profile (surface) and pressure difference (contour) in the reactor at the end of the simulation. The flow velocity of gas is slower within the porous catalytic bed. The figure also displays a pressure drop across the bed.





Figure 4: Velocity flow field and pressure drop within the porous catalyst bed after 20,000 s. Surface plot displays the velocity (SI unit: m/s) and contour plot the pressure (SI unit: Pa).



Figure 5 shows the temperature distribution after 50 s and 500 s. It takes approximately 300 s for the bed to heat up to the same temperature as the walls (850 K).

Figure 5: Temperature distribution within the reactor after 50 s and 500 s.

Figure 6 shows a comparison of the concentration distributions for methane at 50 s and 500 s. The concentration of methane decreases more rapidly as soon as the bed is sufficiently heated (Figure 5).



Figure 6: Concentration distribution of methane within the reactor at 50 s and 500 s.

The concentration distribution of methane and hydrogen is displayed along the centerline of the porous catalyst bed in Figure 7. The figure shows in detail that the production of hydrogen varies with time and heating.



Figure 7: Concentration distribution of  $CH_4$  and  $H_2$  along the center of the porous catalyst bed at 50 s and 500 s.

Figure 8 illustrates that the porosity varies within the bed at 20,000 s and that the pores may become completely clogged near the bed inlet with time.



Figure 8: Porosity distribution within the porous catalyst bed at 4,000 s.

# References

1. S.G. Zavarukhin and G.G. Kuvshinov, "The kinetic model of formation of nanofibrous carbon from CH<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub> mixture over a high-loaded nickel catalyst with consideration for the catalyst deactivation", *J. Appl. Catal. A*, vol. 272, pp. 219–227, 2004.

2. E.A. Borisova and P.M. Adler, "Deposition in porous media and clogging on the field scale", *Phys. Rev. E*, vol. 71, p. 016311-1, 2005.

**Application Library path:** Chemical\_Reaction\_Engineering\_Module/ Reactors\_with\_Porous\_Catalysts/carbon\_deposition

# Modeling Instructions

From the File menu, choose New.

#### NEW

In the New window, click 🔗 Model Wizard.

# MODEL WIZARD

- I In the Model Wizard window, click 0D.
- 2 In the Select Physics tree, select Chemical Species Transport>Reaction Engineering (re).
- 3 Click Add.
- 4 Click 😔 Study.
- 5 In the Select Study tree, select General Studies>Time Dependent.
- 6 Click 🗹 Done.

#### **REACTION ENGINEERING (RE)**

Reaction 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (comp1) right-click Reaction Engineering (re) and choose Reaction.
- 2 In the Settings window for Reaction, locate the Reaction Formula section.
- **3** In the **Formula** text field, type CH4=>C+2H2.

#### Species 1

Add an individual species representing the catalyst activity.

- I In the Reaction Engineering toolbar, click 📩 Species.
- 2 In the Settings window for Species, locate the Name section.
- **3** In the text field, type **a**.

When a new species is created a mass balance equation is set up along with it. Note that you can remove the effect of catalyst activity from your model by selecting the **Lock concentration/activity** check box. This removes the species mass balance and sets the concentration of the species to the value entered in the **Initial Values** node.

#### **GLOBAL DEFINITIONS**

Load the model parameters from a text file.

Parameters 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Global Definitions click Parameters I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Parameters, locate the Parameters section.
- 3 Click 📂 Load from File.

**4** Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file carbon\_deposition\_parameters.txt.

# DEFINITIONS

Load the model variables from a text file.

Variables 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (comp1) right-click Definitions and choose Variables.
- 2 In the Settings window for Variables, locate the Variables section.
- 3 Click 📂 Load from File.
- **4** Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file carbon\_deposition\_variables.txt.

For the k variable definition above, it is assumed that there is  $1 [g/m^3]$  catalyst.

# **REACTION ENGINEERING (RE)**

- 1: CH4=>C+2H2
- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (comp1)>Reaction Engineering (re) click I: CH4=>C+2H2.
- 2 In the Settings window for Reaction, locate the Reaction Rate section.
- 3 From the list, choose User defined.
- 4 In the r<sub>i</sub> text field, type re.c\_a\*k\*(P\_CH4-P\_H2^2/Kp)/(1+kH\*sqrt(P\_H2))^2.

Additional Source 1

- I In the Reaction Engineering toolbar, click 🕹 Additional Source.
- **2** In the Settings window for Additional Source, locate the Additional Rate Expression section.
- **3** In the **Volumetric species** table, enter the following settings:

Species	Additional rate expression (mol/(m^3*s))
a	-ka*re.r_1^2*re.c_C*re.c_a

Initial Values 1

- I In the Model Builder window, click Initial Values I.
- **2** In the **Settings** window for **Initial Values**, locate the **Volumetric Species Initial Values** section.

**3** In the table, enter the following settings:

Species	Concentration (mol/m <sup>3</sup> )
С	0
CH4	c_CH4in
H2	c_H2in
a	1

- 4 In the Model Builder window, click Reaction Engineering (re).
- 5 In the Settings window for Reaction Engineering, locate the Energy Balance section.
- **6** In the *T* text field, type 850[K].
- 7 Locate the Mixture Properties section. From the Reactor pressure list, choose User defined.
- 8 In the p text field, type R\_const\*re.T\*(re.c\_CH4+re.c\_H2).

# STUDY I

Step 1: Time Dependent

- I In the Model Builder window, under Study I click Step I: Time Dependent.
- 2 In the Settings window for Time Dependent, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 In the **Output times** text field, type range(0,500,20000).
- **4** In the **Home** toolbar, click **= Compute**.

# STUDY I

Solution I (soll)

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Study I>Solver Configurations node.
- 2 Right-click Solution I (soll) and choose Solution>Copy.

With catalyst deactivation

- In the Model Builder window, under Study I>Solver Configurations click Solution I -Copy I (sol2).
- **2** In the **Settings** window for **Solution**, type With catalyst deactivation in the **Label** text field.

# RESULTS

Catalyst Activity (re)

I In the Model Builder window, under Results click Concentration (re).

- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Study I/With catalyst deactivation (sol2).
- 4 In the Label text field, type Catalyst Activity (re).
- 5 Click to expand the Title section. From the Title type list, choose Manual.
- 6 In the Title text area, type Catalyst activity.

#### Global I

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Catalyst Activity (re) node, then click Global I.
- In the Settings window for Global, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the y-Axis Data section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)>
  Reaction Engineering>re.c\_a Concentration mol/m<sup>3</sup>.
- 3 Click to expand the Coloring and Style section. From the Width list, choose 2.
- 4 Click to expand the Legends section. Clear the Show legends check box.
- 5 In the Catalyst Activity (re) toolbar, click 💽 Plot.

Now study the reaction when the catalyst activity is held constant (initial value).

# **REACTION ENGINEERING (RE)**

Species: a

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Reaction Engineering (re) click Species: a.
- **2** In the **Settings** window for **Species**, click to expand the **Constant Concentration/Activity** section.
- 3 Select the Keep concentration/activity constant check box.

#### STUDY I

In the **Home** toolbar, click **= Compute**.

Solution 1 (soll)

In the Model Builder window, under Study I>Solver Configurations right-click Solution I (soll) and choose Solution>Copy.

#### Constant catalyst activity

- In the Model Builder window, under Study I>Solver Configurations click Solution I -Copy I (sol3).
- **2** In the **Settings** window for **Solution**, type Constant catalyst activity in the **Label** text field.

# RESULTS

Compare the concentrations between locked (constant catalyst activity) and unlocked (with catalyst deactivation) species a.

#### Concentration Comparison (re)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click Concentration (re).
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, type Concentration Comparison (re) in the Label text field.
- **3** Locate the **Title** section. From the **Title type** list, choose **Manual**.
- 4 In the Title text area, type Concentration comparison.
- 5 Locate the Legend section. From the Position list, choose Lower right.

#### With catalyst deactivation

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Concentration Comparison (re) node, then click Global I.
- **2** In the **Settings** window for **Global**, type With catalyst deactivation in the **Label** text field.
- 3 Locate the Data section. From the Dataset list, choose Study I/ With catalyst deactivation (sol2).
- 4 Locate the Coloring and Style section. From the Width list, choose 2.
- 5 Locate the Legends section. From the Legends list, choose Manual.
- **6** In the table, enter the following settings:

#### Legends

CH<sub>4</sub> with deactivation

```
C with deactivation
```

H<sub>2</sub> with deactivation

Constant catalyst activity

- I Right-click With catalyst deactivation and choose Duplicate.
- 2 In the Settings window for Global, type Constant catalyst activity in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Data section. From the Dataset list, choose Study I/ Constant catalyst activity (sol3).
- **4** Locate the **Coloring and Style** section. Find the **Line style** subsection. From the **Line** list, choose **Dashed**.
- **5** From the **Color** list, choose **Cycle (reset)**.

6 Locate the Legends section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Legends CH<sub>4</sub> constant activity C constant activity H<sub>2</sub> constant activity

7 In the Concentration Comparison (re) toolbar, click 💿 Plot.

Create a time- and space-dependent model from the **Reaction Engineering** interface. All solid species should be locked before this is done.

# **REACTION ENGINEERING (RE)**

Species: C

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Reaction Engineering (re) click Species: C.
- 2 In the Settings window for Species, locate the Constant Concentration/Activity section.
- **3** Select the Keep concentration/activity constant check box.

Generate Space-Dependent Model I

- I In the Reaction Engineering toolbar, click 🖙 Generate Space-Dependent Model.
- 2 In the Settings window for Generate Space-Dependent Model, locate the Component Settings section.
- **3** From the **Component to use** list, choose **2Daxi: New**.
- **4** Locate the **Physics Interfaces** section. Find the **Chemical species transport** subsection. From the list, choose **Transport of Concentrated Species: New**.
- 5 Find the Heat transfer subsection. From the list, choose Heat Transfer in Porous Media: New.
- 6 Find the Fluid flow subsection. From the list, choose Laminar Flow: New.
- 7 Locate the Space-Dependent Model Generation section. Click Create/Refresh.

#### **DEFINITIONS (COMP2)**

Add variables for the **Chemistry** node which are similar to those used in the **Reaction Engineering** interface.

Variables 2

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Component 2 (comp2) node.
- 2 Right-click Component 2 (comp2)>Definitions and choose Variables.

- 3 In the Settings window for Variables, locate the Variables section.
- 4 Click 📂 Load from File.
- 5 Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file carbon\_deposition\_2D\_variables.txt.

In order to get significant carbon deposition, the amount of catalyst is increased to 300  $[g/m^3]$ . The k value is 300 times as that in 0D.

# GEOMETRY I(2DAXI)

Rectangle 1 (r1)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 📃 Rectangle.
- 2 In the Settings window for Rectangle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type 0.01.
- 4 In the **Height** text field, type 0.04.

# Rectangle 2 (r2)

- I In the **Geometry** toolbar, click Rectangle.
- 2 In the Settings window for Rectangle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type 0.015.
- 4 In the **Height** text field, type 0.12.
- 5 Locate the **Position** section. In the **z** text field, type 0.04.

#### Rectangle 3 (r3)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 📃 Rectangle.
- 2 In the Settings window for Rectangle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type 0.01.
- 4 In the **Height** text field, type 0.04.
- 5 Locate the **Position** section. In the **z** text field, type 0.16.
- 6 Click 🟢 Build All Objects.

# Fillet I (fill)

- I In the **Geometry** toolbar, click *Fillet*.
- 2 On the object r2, select Points 2 and 3 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Fillet, locate the Radius section.
- 4 In the Radius text field, type 0.001.
- 5 Click 🟢 Build All Objects.

# Union I (unil)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 🛑 Booleans and Partitions and choose Union.
- 2 Click in the Graphics window and then press Ctrl+A to select all objects.
- 3 In the Settings window for Union, locate the Union section.
- 4 Clear the Keep interior boundaries check box.
- 5 Click 🟢 Build All Objects.

# Fillet 2 (fil2)

- I In the **Geometry** toolbar, click *Fillet*.
- 2 On the object unil, select Points 6 and 7 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Fillet, locate the Radius section.
- 4 In the Radius text field, type 0.004.

# Rectangle 4 (r4)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 📃 Rectangle.
- 2 In the Settings window for Rectangle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- **3** In the **Width** text field, type **0.015**.
- 4 In the **Height** text field, type 0.112.
- 5 Locate the Position section. In the z text field, type 0.044.
- 6 Click 🟢 Build All Objects.
- 7 Click the 🕂 Zoom Extents button in the Graphics toolbar.

# COMPONENT 2 (COMP2)

Add the **Domain ODE and DAE** interface for modeling of the porosity change in the porous domain.

# ADD PHYSICS

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🙀 Add Physics to open the Add Physics window.
- 2 Go to the Add Physics window.
- 3 In the tree, select Mathematics>ODE and DAE Interfaces>Domain ODEs and DAEs (dode).
- 4 Click Add to Component 2 in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click 🙀 Add Physics to close the Add Physics window.

# POROSITY CHANGE

I In the Settings window for Domain ODEs and DAEs, type Porosity Change in the Label text field.

- 2 Locate the Domain Selection section. Click 🚺 Clear Selection.
- **3** Select Domain 2 only.
- **4** Locate the **Units** section. In the **Source term quantity** table, enter the following settings:

Source term quantity	Unit
Custom unit	1/s

5 Click to expand the Dependent Variables section. In the Field name text field, type por.

6 In the **Dependent variables** table, enter the following settings:

# por

#### Distributed ODE I

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component 2 (comp2)>Porosity Change (dode) click Distributed ODE I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Distributed ODE, locate the Source Term section.
- **3** In the *f* text field, type -por\*chem.r\_1\*chem.M\_C/rho\_soot.

#### Initial Values 1

- I In the Model Builder window, click Initial Values I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Initial Values, locate the Initial Values section.
- **3** In the *por* text field, type por0.

# CHEMISTRY I (CHEM)

#### Species: CH4

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Component 2 (comp2)>Chemistry I (chem) node, then click Species: CH4.
- 2 In the Settings window for Species, click to expand the Transport Expressions section.
- 3 From the Thermal conductivity list, choose User defined.
- **4** In the *k* text field, type kt\_CH4.
- 5 Click to expand the Thermodynamic Expressions section. From the list, choose User defined.
- 6 In the  $C_p$  text field, type Cp\_CH4\*chem.M\_CH4.
- 7 In the *h* text field, type h\_CH4.
- 8 In the *s* text field, type s\_CH4.

#### Species: H2

- I In the Model Builder window, click Species: H2.
- 2 In the Settings window for Species, locate the Transport Expressions section.
- **3** From the **Thermal conductivity** list, choose **User defined**.
- **4** In the *k* text field, type kt\_H2.
- 5 Locate the Thermodynamic Expressions section. From the list, choose User defined.
- 6 In the  $C_p$  text field, type Cp\_H2\*chem.M\_H2.
- **7** In the h text field, type h\_H2.
- 8 In the *s* text field, type s\_H2.

#### Species: C

- I In the Model Builder window, click Species: C.
- 2 In the Settings window for Species, locate the Transport Expressions section.
- **3** From the **Thermal conductivity** list, choose **User defined**.
- **4** In the *k* text field, type kt\_C.
- 5 Locate the Thermodynamic Expressions section. From the list, choose User defined.
- **6** In the  $C_p$  text field, type Cp\_C\*chem.M\_C.
- 7 In the *h* text field, type h\_C.
- **8** In the *s* text field, type **s\_C**.

#### Species: a

- I In the Model Builder window, click Species: a.
- 2 In the Settings window for Species, locate the Chemical Formula section.
- **3** In the *M* text field, type M\_a.
- 4 Locate the Transport Expressions section. From the Thermal conductivity list, choose User defined.
- **5** In the *k* text field, type kt\_cat.

#### TRANSPORT OF CONCENTRATED SPECIES (TCS)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component 2 (comp2) click Transport of Concentrated Species (tcs).
- 2 In the Settings window for Transport of Concentrated Species, locate the Transport Mechanisms section.
- 3 Select the Mass transfer in porous media check box.

#### Transport Properties 1

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Transport of Concentrated Species (tcs) node, then click Transport Properties I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Transport Properties, locate the Diffusion section.
- **3** In the table, enter the following settings:

Species I	Species 2	Diffusivity	Diffusion coefficient (m^2/s)
wCH4	wH2	User defined	D_CH4H2

#### Reaction Sources 1

- I In the Model Builder window, click Reaction Sources I.
- **2** Select Domains 1 and 3 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Reaction Sources, locate the Domain Selection section.
- 4 Click Remove from Selection.
- **5** Select Domain 2 only.
- 6 Locate the Reacting Volume section. From the Reacting volume list, choose Pore volume.

#### Inflow 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Boundaries and choose Inflow.
- **2** Select Boundary 2 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Inflow, locate the Inflow section.
- **4** In the  $\omega_{0,wH2}$  text field, type 0.

#### Outflow I

- I In the **Physics** toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Outflow**.
- **2** Select Boundary 9 only.

#### Porous Medium I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Domains** and choose Porous Medium.
- **2** Select Domain 2 only.

#### Fluid I

- I In the Model Builder window, click Fluid I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Fluid, click to expand the Model Input section.
- **3** From the  $p_A$  list, choose **Absolute pressure (spf)**.
- **4** Locate the **Convection** section. From the **u** list, choose **Velocity field (spf)**.

5 Locate the **Diffusion** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Species I	Species 2	Diffusivity	Diffusion coefficient (m^2/s)
wCH4	wH2	User defined	D_CH4H2

#### Porous Matrix I

- I In the Model Builder window, click Porous Matrix I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Porous Matrix, locate the Matrix Properties section.
- **3** In the  $\varepsilon_p$  text field, type por.

#### HEAT TRANSFER IN POROUS MEDIA I (HT)

#### Fluid I

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Component 2 (comp2)> Heat Transfer in Porous Media I (ht)>Porous Medium I node, then click Fluid I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Fluid, locate the Thermodynamics, Fluid section.
- **3** From the  $M_n$  list, choose Mean molar mass (chem).

Porous Matrix I

- I In the Model Builder window, click Porous Matrix I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Porous Matrix, locate the Matrix Properties section.
- 3 From the  $\varepsilon_p$  list, choose User defined. In the associated text field, type por.
- 4 From the Define list, choose Solid phase properties.
- 5 Locate the Heat Conduction, Porous Matrix section. From the  $k_s$  list, choose User defined. In the associated text field, type kt\_cat.
- $\label{eq:section} \begin{array}{l} \textbf{6} \ \ Locate \ the \ \textbf{Thermodynamics, Porous Matrix section. From the } \rho_s \ list, choose \ \textbf{User defined.} \\ \ \ In \ the \ associated \ text \ field, \ type \ \textbf{rho_cat.} \end{array}$
- 7 From the  $C_{p,s}$  list, choose User defined. In the associated text field, type Cp\_cat.

#### Heat Source 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component 2 (comp2)> Heat Transfer in Porous Media I (ht) click Heat Source I.
- **2** Select Domain 2 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Heat Source, locate the Heat Source section.
- 4 In the  $Q_0$  text field, type chem.Qtot\*por.

#### Temperature I

I In the Physics toolbar, click — Boundaries and choose Temperature.

**2** Select Boundary 2 only.

# Outflow I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Boundaries and choose Outflow.
- 2 Select Boundary 9 only.

#### Temperature 2

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Boundaries and choose Temperature.
- 2 Select Boundary 13 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Temperature, locate the Temperature section.
- **4** In the  $T_0$  text field, type 850[K].

#### Fluid I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Domains** and choose Fluid.
- **2** Select Domains 1 and 3 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Fluid, locate the Heat Convection section.
- 4 From the **u** list, choose **Velocity field (spf)**.
- **5** Locate the **Heat Conduction**, **Fluid** section. From the *k* list, choose **Thermal conductivity (chem)**.
- 6 Locate the Thermodynamics, Fluid section. From the Fluid type list, choose Gas/Liquid.
- **7** From the  $\rho$  list, choose **Density (chem)**.
- 8 From the  $C_p$  list, choose Heat capacity at constant pressure (chem).
- **9** From the  $\gamma$  list, choose **User defined**.

#### LAMINAR FLOW I (SPF)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component 2 (comp2) click Laminar Flow I (spf).
- 2 In the Settings window for Laminar Flow, locate the Physical Model section.
- **3** Select the **Enable porous media domains** check box.

## Fluid Properties 1

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Laminar Flow I (spf) node, then click Fluid Properties I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Fluid Properties, locate the Fluid Properties section.
- **3** From the  $\rho$  list, choose **Density (chem)**.

#### Porous Medium I

I In the Physics toolbar, click **Domains** and choose Porous Medium.

2 Select Domain 2 only.

# Fluid I

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Porous Medium I node, then click Fluid I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Fluid, locate the Fluid Properties section.
- **3** From the  $\rho$  list, choose **Density (chem)**.
- **4** From the  $\mu$  list, choose **Dynamic viscosity (chem)**.

#### Porous Matrix I

- I In the Model Builder window, click Porous Matrix I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Porous Matrix, locate the Matrix Properties section.
- ${\bf 3}\,$  From the  $\epsilon_p$  list, choose  ${\bf User}$  defined. In the associated text field, type por.
- **4** From the  $\kappa$  list, choose **User defined**. In the associated text field, type kappa.

# Inlet I

- I In the **Physics** toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Inlet**.
- **2** Select Boundary 2 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Inlet, locate the Boundary Condition section.
- 4 From the list, choose Fully developed flow.
- 5 Locate the Fully Developed Flow section. In the  $U_{av}$  text field, type u\_in.

#### Outlet I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Boundaries and choose Outlet.
- 2 Select Boundary 9 only.

# Mass Source 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Domains** and choose Mass Source.
- **2** Select Domain 2 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Mass Source, locate the Mass Source section.
- 4 In the  $Q_{\rm m}$  text field, type (chem.Rw\_CH4+chem.Rw\_H2)\*por.

# STUDY 2

#### Step 1: Stationary

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Study 2 node, then click Step 1: Stationary.
- 2 In the Settings window for Stationary, locate the Physics and Variables Selection section.

In the table, clear the Solve for check boxes for Chemistry I (chem),
 Transport of Concentrated Species (tcs), Heat Transfer in Porous Media I (ht), and
 Porosity Change (dode).

#### Time Dependent

- I In the Study toolbar, click Study Steps and choose Time Dependent> Time Dependent.
- 2 In the Settings window for Time Dependent, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 In the Output times text field, type range(0,50,1000) range(2000,1000,20000).
- 4 Locate the Physics and Variables Selection section. In the table, clear the Solve for check box for Reaction Engineering (re).
- **5** In the **Study** toolbar, click **= Compute**.

# RESULTS

#### Temperature, 3D

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click Temperature, 3D (htl).
- 2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, type Temperature, 3D in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Data section. From the Time (s) list, choose 50.
- 4 Locate the Plot Settings section. Clear the Plot dataset edges check box.

#### Surface

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Temperature, 3D node, then click Surface.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Coloring and Style section.
- 3 Click Change Color Table.
- 4 In the Color Table dialog box, select Thermal>ThermalDark in the tree.
- 5 Click OK.
- 6 In the Settings window for Surface, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the Expression section. From the menu, choose Component 2 (comp2)> Heat Transfer in Porous Media I>Temperature>T Temperature K.

Adjust the view angle of the plot with the mouse.

#### Temperature, 3D

- I In the Model Builder window, click Temperature, 3D.
- 2 In the Temperature, 3D toolbar, click **D** Plot.
- **3** Click the 4 **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

- 4 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, locate the Data section.
- 5 From the Time (s) list, choose 500.
- 6 In the Temperature, 3D toolbar, click 💿 Plot.
- 7 Click the **Click the Com Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

Concentration, CH4, 3D (tcs)

- I In the Model Builder window, click Concentration, CH4, 3D (tcs).
- 2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Time (s) list, choose 50.
- 4 Click to expand the **Title** section. Locate the **Plot Settings** section. Clear the **Plot dataset edges** check box.
- 5 In the Concentration, CH4, 3D (tcs) toolbar, click 🗿 Plot.
- 6 Click the |+ Zoom Extents button in the Graphics toolbar.
- 7 Locate the Data section. From the Time (s) list, choose 500.
- 8 In the Concentration, CH4, 3D (tcs) toolbar, click 💽 Plot.
- **9** Click the **F Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

Velocity, 3D (spf1)

- I In the Model Builder window, click Velocity, 3D (spfl).
- 2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, locate the Plot Settings section.
- 3 Clear the Plot dataset edges check box.

#### Contour I

- I Right-click Velocity, 3D (spfl) and choose Contour.
- 2 In the Settings window for Contour, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the Expression section. From the menu, choose Component 2 (comp2)>Laminar Flow I> Velocity and pressure>p - Pressure - Pa.
- **3** Click to expand the **Title** section. Locate the **Coloring and Style** section. From the **Contour type** list, choose **Tube**.
- 4 Click Change Color Table.
- 5 In the Color Table dialog box, select Rainbow>Spectrum in the tree.
- 6 Click OK.

#### Surface

- I In the Model Builder window, click Surface.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Coloring and Style section.

- 3 Click Change Color Table.
- 4 In the Color Table dialog box, select Aurora>Twilight in the tree.
- 5 Click OK.
- 6 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Coloring and Style section.
- 7 From the Color table transformation list, choose Reverse.

# Velocity, 3D (spf1)

- I In the Model Builder window, click Velocity, 3D (spfl).
- 2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, locate the Color Legend section.
- 3 Select the Show units check box.
- 4 In the Velocity, 3D (spfl) toolbar, click 🗿 Plot.
- **5** Click the **Com Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

Cut Line 3D 1

- I In the **Results** toolbar, click Cut Line 3D.
- 2 In the Settings window for Cut Line 3D, locate the Line Data section.
- **3** In row **Point I**, set **z** to **0.044**.
- 4 In row **Point 2**, set **x** to 0 and **z** to 0.156.

Concentration CH4, Porous Catalyst Bed Center

- I In the **Results** toolbar, click  $\sim$  **ID Plot Group**.
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, type Concentration CH4, Porous Catalyst Bed Center in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Data section. From the Dataset list, choose Cut Line 3D I.
- 4 From the Time selection list, choose From list.
- 5 In the Times (s) list, choose 50 and 500.
- 6 Locate the Title section. From the Title type list, choose Manual.
- 7 In the Title text area, type Methane concentration, porous catalyst bed center.
- 8 Locate the Plot Settings section.
- **9** Select the **x-axis label** check box. In the associated text field, type Length porous catalytic bed (m).
- 10 Select the y-axis label check box. In the associated text field, type Concentration (mol/m<sup>3</sup>).
- II Locate the Legend section. From the Position list, choose Middle left.

Line Graph 1

- I Right-click Concentration CH4, Porous Catalyst Bed Center and choose Line Graph.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line Graph, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the y-Axis Data section. From the menu, choose Component 2 (comp2)> Transport of Concentrated Species>Species wCH4>tcs.c\_wCH4 - Molar concentration - mol/ m<sup>3</sup>.
- 3 Click to expand the Coloring and Style section. From the Width list, choose 2.
- 4 Click to expand the Legends section. Select the Show legends check box.
- 5 From the Legends list, choose Evaluated.
- 6 In the Legend text field, type CH<sub>4</sub> eval(t,s) s.

Line Graph 2

- I Right-click Line Graph I and choose Duplicate.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line Graph, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the y-Axis Data section. From the menu, choose Component 2 (comp2)> Transport of Concentrated Species>Species wH2>tcs.c\_wH2 - Molar concentration - mol/m<sup>3</sup>.
- **3** Locate the **Coloring and Style** section. Find the **Line style** subsection. From the **Line** list, choose **Dashed**.
- 4 From the Color list, choose Cycle (reset).
- 5 Locate the Legends section. In the Legend text field, type H<sub>2</sub> eval(t,s) s.
- 6 In the Concentration CH4, Porous Catalyst Bed Center toolbar, click 🗿 Plot.

#### Porosity Distribution

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click 3D Plot Group 13.
- 2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, type Porosity Distribution in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Title section. From the Title type list, choose Manual.
- **4** In the **Title** text area, type Porosity within porous catalyst bed.
- **5** In the **Porosity Distribution** toolbar, click **I Plot**.
- 6 Click the 4 Zoom Extents button in the Graphics toolbar.

Delete the .

For future use of **Study I**, turn off the interfaces associated with the space-dependent model.

# STUDY I

Step 1: Time Dependent

- I In the Model Builder window, under Study I click Step I: Time Dependent.
- **2** In the **Settings** window for **Time Dependent**, locate the **Physics and Variables Selection** section.
- In the table, clear the Solve for check boxes for Chemistry I (chem),
  Transport of Concentrated Species (tcs), Heat Transfer in Porous Media I (ht),
  Laminar Flow I (spf), and Porosity Change (dode).

The 2D plot group showing the porosity is not needed and can be deleted.

# RESULTS

2D Plot Group 12

In the Model Builder window, under Results right-click 2D Plot Group 12 and choose Delete.