



Cyprus
University of
Technology

Faculty of Geotechnical
Sciences and
Environmental
Management

Bachelor's Thesis

**COMPUTATIONAL STUDIES ON BATCH REACTORS
FOR HYDROGEN PRODUCTION VIA THE
DECOMPOSITION OF HYDROUS HYDRAZINE USING
HETEROGENEOUS CATALYSTS**

Antonis Prokopiou

Limassol, May 2024

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Antonis Prokopiou

Supervisor

Dr. Achilleas Constantinou, Assistant Professor

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The approval of the thesis by the Department of Chemical Engineering does not necessarily imply the approval by the Department of the views of the writer.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would first like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Asst. Prof Dr. Achillea Constantinou, for his guidance and support throughout the period of this study. Despite his busy schedule, he ensured that I always had someone to guide and help me. Thus, I would also like to thank his PhD student, Panayiota Adamou, for her valuable comments that helped strengthen this dissertation.

I would like to acknowledge all my professors separately for the knowledge and opportunities that offered me and all the skills that I developed through their lectures.

I am thankful to my fellow students and friends who kept me company in the endless study sessions in the library of the University throughout the years of our studies. Also, I will always remember all the memories and the great times we had together, and I hope our friendship will continue over the years.

Last but not least, I am very thankful to my family, especially my parents, for their enduring love and support. This academic journey towards my bachelor's degree would not have been possible without the dedicated support of my friends and family.

ABSTRACT

The main concern of the world and especially the scientific community is the emissions coming from the burning of fossil fuels to produce energy. Thus, greener energy methods should be developed like this work's objective, the decomposition of hydrous hydrazine (HH) for emission-free hydrogen production. The HH stands out as a highly promising compound since it has a large hydrogen content and favorable decomposition kinetics. Since hydrogen faces a wide range of challenges, such as storage and transportation due to its different characteristics, more efficient ways were developed. It is preferable to produce H₂ on-site by other chemicals such as HH.

The H₂ generation in this study was executed by using a commercial 0.5 wt% Rh/Al₂O₃ catalyst with optimized conditions in a batch reactor. The use of heterogeneous catalysts has a crucial role in the acceleration of the decomposition of HH and therefore to the rates of hydrogen generation and selectivity. The importance of using heterogeneous monometallic catalysts and the batch reactor was also explained in this work. Moreover, a data comparison throughout computational validation was conducted between Rh and Ir-based catalysts supported on alumina (Al₂O₃) and nickel oxide and titanium oxide (NiO-TiO₂) respectively, with the best results, which were rhodium's, being tested further in a 2D study. Furthermore, computational fluid dynamics (CFD) simulations were conducted to correctly validate the experimental simulations using the rhodium's results. CFDs were also performed to study the uniformity of the system through the velocity and concentration distributions in the reactor. In order to achieve this hydrogen production, COMSOL Multiphysics 5.5, a modeling simulation software for finite element analysis, such as heat transfer, fluid flow, and mass transport, has been used in 0D and 2D experimental modeling. These computational simulations helped in the conduction of the experimental results and to a better understanding of the reaction kinetics and provided useful information about new ways of hydrogen generation and possible applications of it.

Keywords: Hydrogen; hydrous hydrazine; batch reactor; heterogeneous catalyst; CFD