

# Transporte de Masa

## Termogravimetría

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# **Estudio de la “cinética” de procesos metalúrgicos mediante termogravimetría**

## **Oxidative Sulfur Removal from Complex Copper Concentrate**

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It is very important to remove sulfur from complex copper concentrates for smelting them by a carbon reduction process since copper concentrates are progressively becoming complex and low grade. The carbon reduction process largely consists of the oxidation process of complex copper concentrate and smelting process of the oxidized concentrate. In the present work, the kinetics study has been performed on a complex copper concentrate to understand the oxidation process over a temperature range of 998 to 1073 K and an oxygen partial pressure range of 15.20 to 50.66 kPa using a thermogravimetric method. It was found that the oxidation rate was very fast under the whole temperature range and almost 95% of sulfur contained in the concentrate was removed after 15 min at 1073 K under an oxygen partial pressure of 21.28 kPa. Sulfur removal ratio as a function of time has been analyzed by using a shrinking-core model and the effect of oxygen partial pressure has been elucidated. [doi:10.2320/matertrans.MER2008081]

- Debido a que la materia prima para obtener cobre son minerales cada vez más complejos y de menor ley, es útil buscar alternativas a los procesos tradicionales.



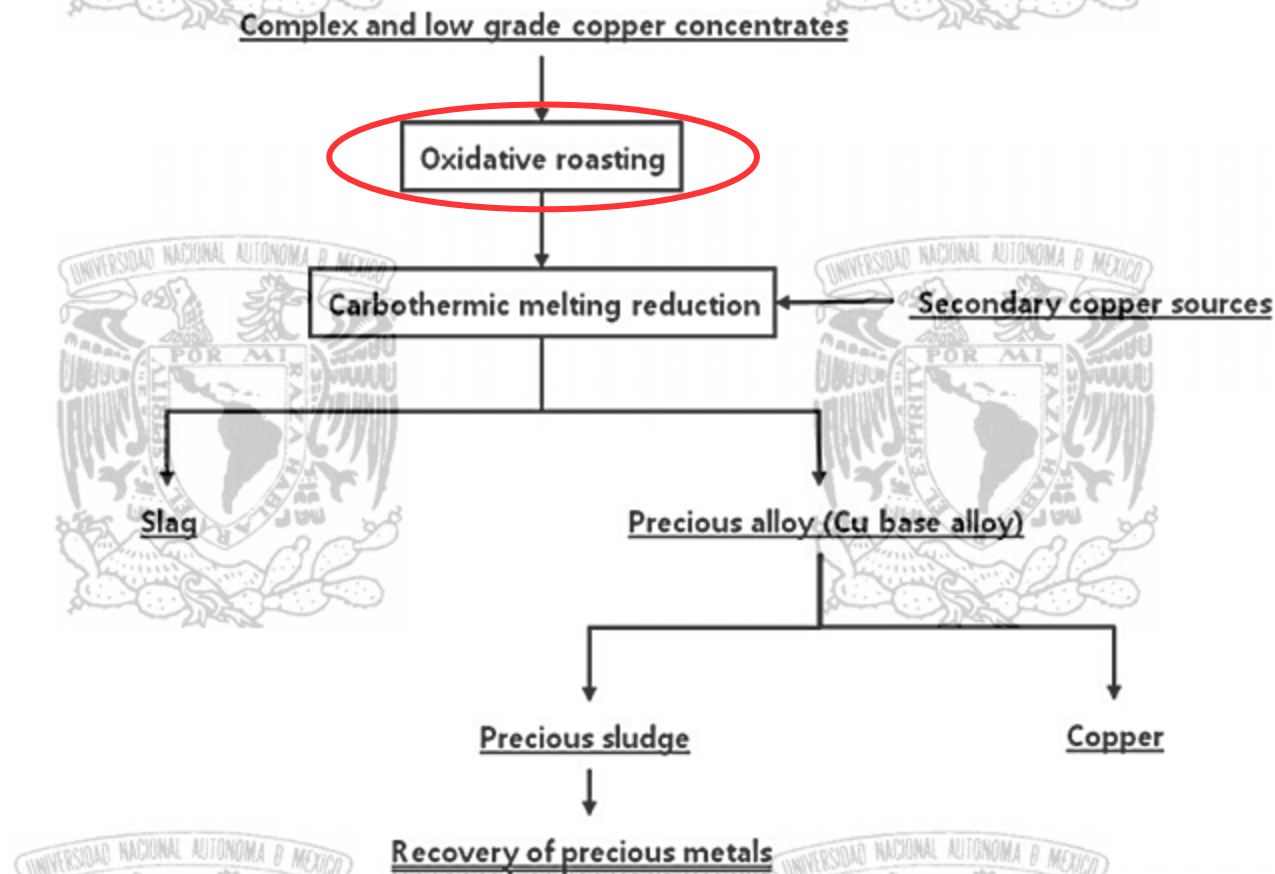


Fig. 1 Flow sheet of the carbon reduction process.



## ➤ Objetivo:

Estudiar (en el laboratorio) la rapidez de la reacción de oxidación de un concentrado complejo de cobre bajo condiciones isotérmicas.

## ➤ Variables independientes:

➤ Presión parcial de oxígeno

➤ Temperatura de la reacción



Table 1 Chemical composition of the natural complex copper concentrate incinerated at 873 K for 2 h under nitrogen atmosphere. (mass%)

Cu	Zn	Fe	Pb	Au	Ag	SiO <sub>2</sub>	S
14.9	29.1	12.2	6.6	145 ppm	1045 ppm	11.5	23.8

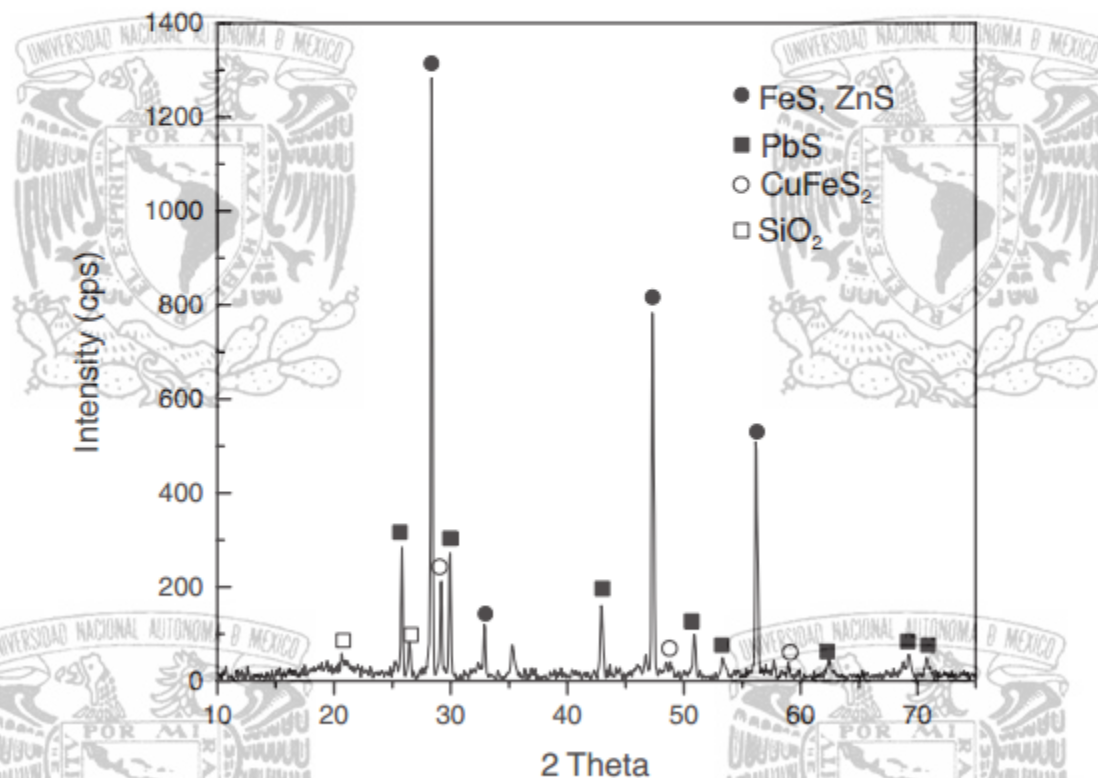


Fig. 1 XRD pattern of the complex copper concentrate incinerated at 873 K for 2 h under nitrogen atmosphere.

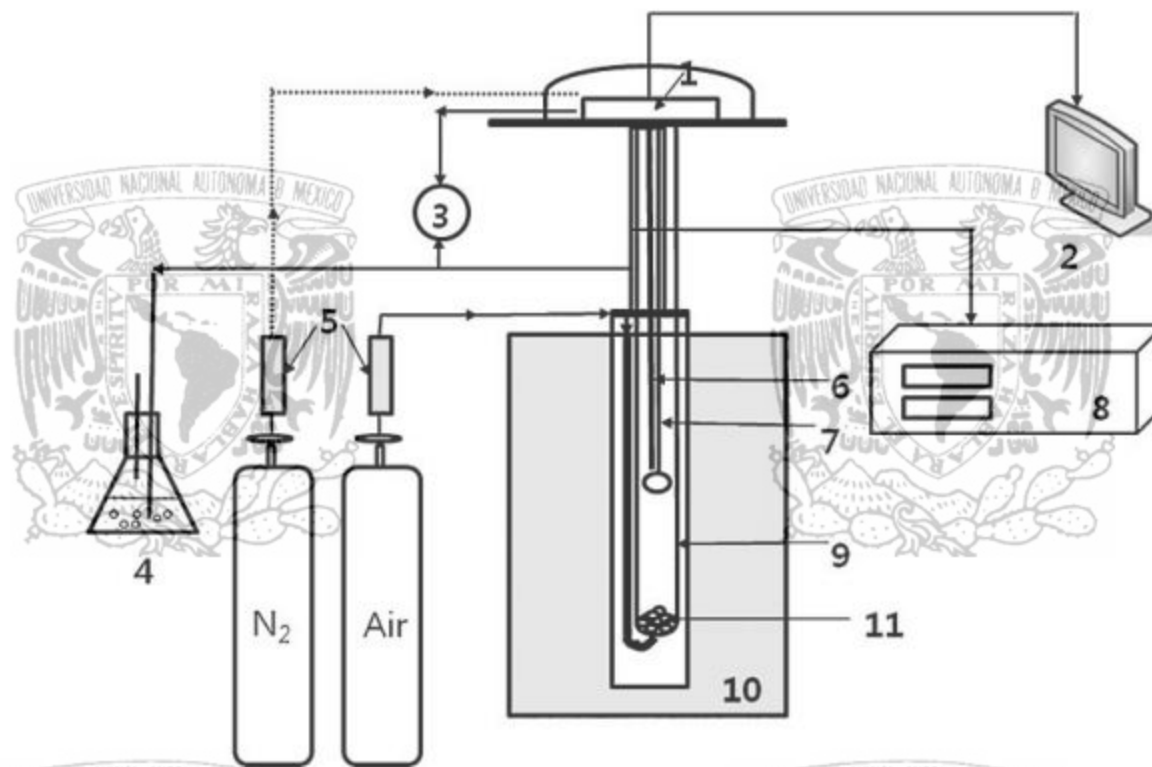


Fig. 3 Schematic diagram of the experimental apparatus for TGA thermal analysis. 1. Micro balance, 2. Data collector, 3. Pressure display, 4. Exhaust gases, 5. Mass flow controller, 6. Thermocouple, 7. Sample tray, 8. Temperature controller, 9. Reactor tube, 10. Furnace, 11. Ceramic ball.



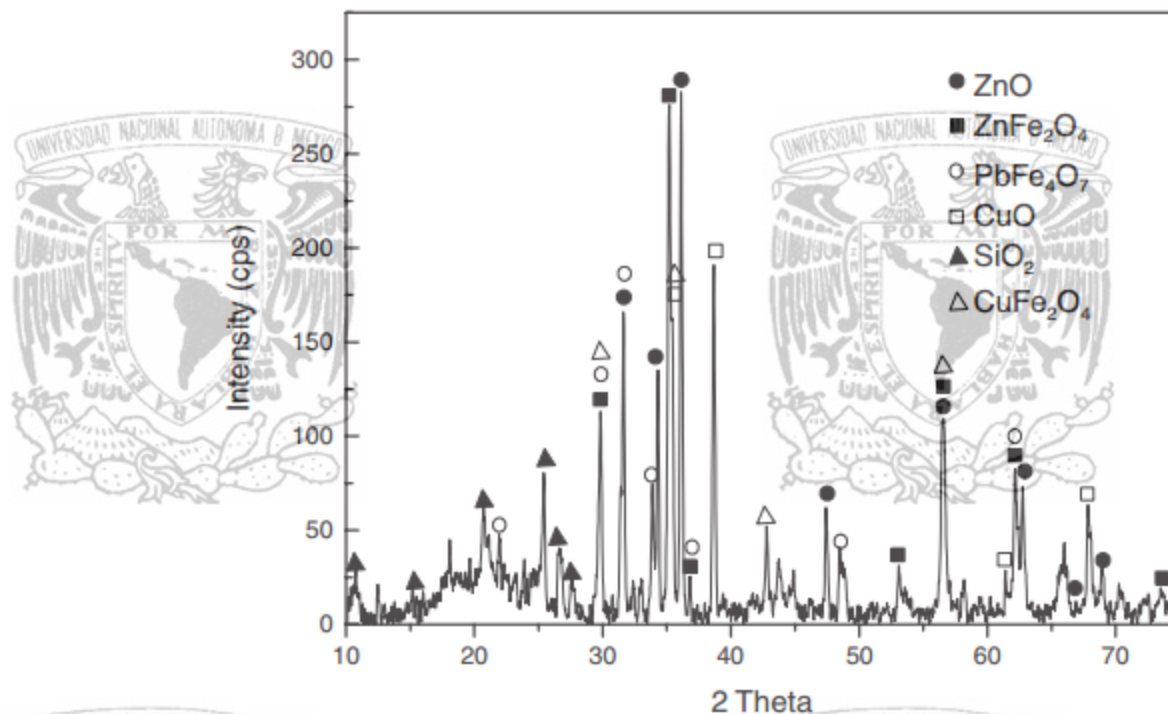


Fig. 3 XRD pattern of the product formed after the oxidation reaction at 1073 K under an oxygen partial pressure of 21.28 kPa.

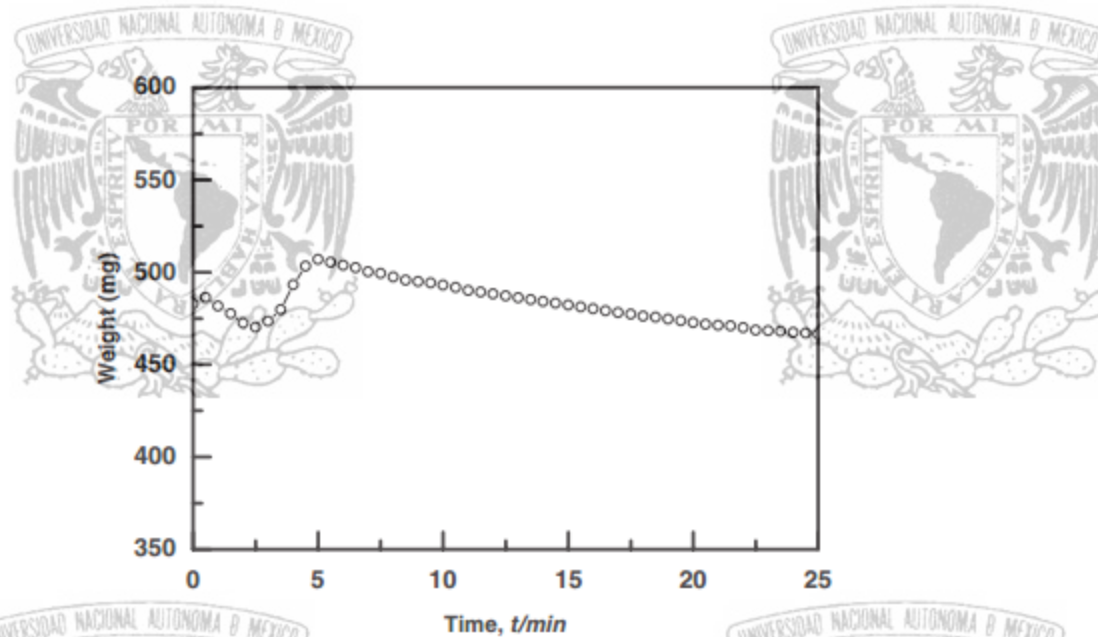


Fig. 2 A typical TGA curve of the oxidation reaction of complex copper concentrate at 1023 K under an oxygen partial pressure of 50.66 kPa.

Razón de remoción de azufre: 
$$X_t = X_F \frac{W_I - W_t}{W_I}$$

$X_t$  razón de remoción de azufre al tiempo  $t$  ( $0 \leq X_F \leq 1$ )

$X_F$  razón de remoción de azufre total ( $0 \leq X_F \leq 1$ )

$W_I$  peso inicial de la muestra [mg]

$W_t$  peso de la muestra al tiempo  $t$  [mg]

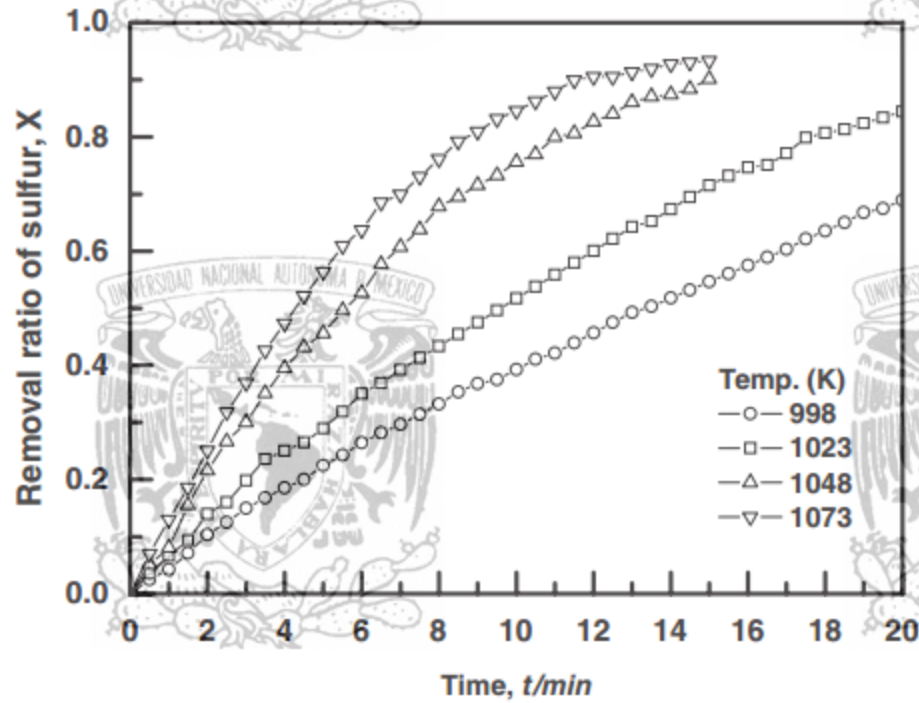


Fig. 4 Effect of reaction temperature on the oxidation reaction of complex copper concentrate at an oxygen partial pressure of 21.28 kPa.



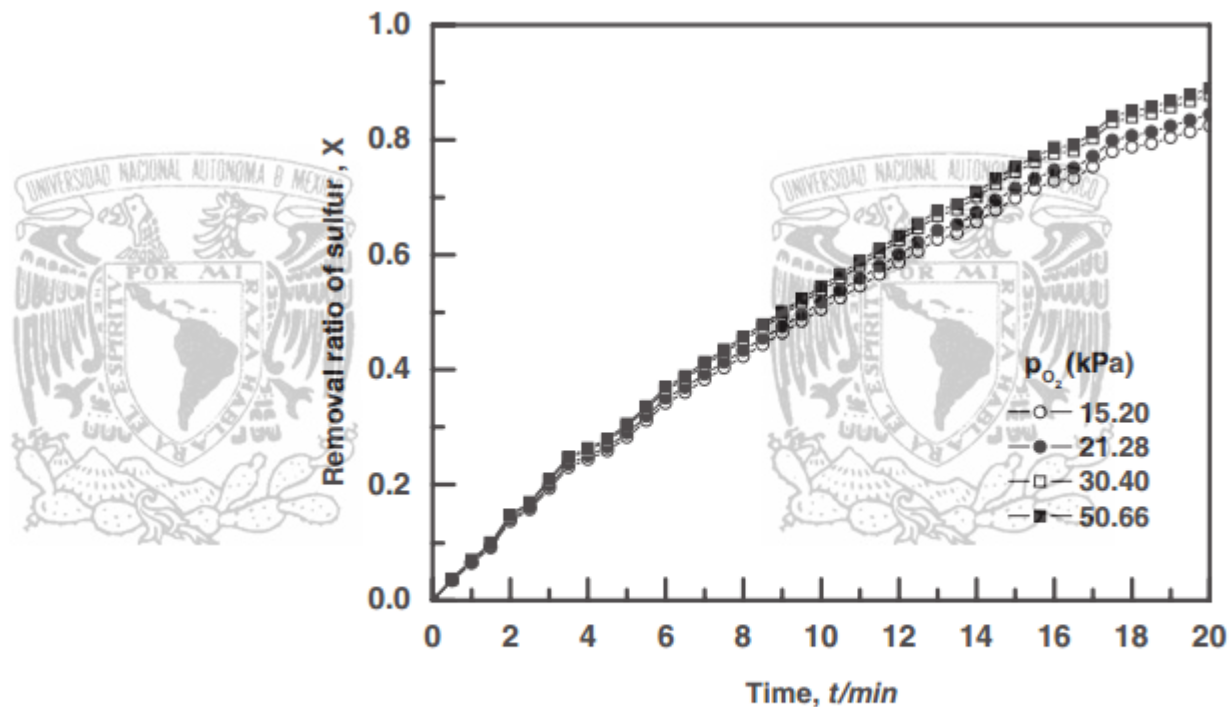


Fig. 5 Effect of oxygen partial pressure on the oxidation reaction of complex copper concentrate at 1023 K.