Kinetics of H/D Exchange for n-Butane on Zeolite H-ZSM-5 Studied with $^1$H MAS NMR In Situ

Sergei S. Arzumanov,† Alexander G. Stepanov,*† and Dieter Freude,*‡

Boreskov Institute of Catalysis, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Prospект Akademika Lavrentieva 5, Novosibirsk 630090, Russia, and Abteilung Grenzflächenphysik, Universität Leipzig, Linnéstraße 5, 04103 Leipzig, Germany

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The kinetics of hydrogen (H/D) exchange between Brønsted acid sites of zeolite H-ZSM-5 and deuterated n-butanes (n-butane-$d_{10}$ and n-butane-1,1,1,4,4,4-$d_6$) has been monitored by $^1$H magic-angle spinning (MAS) NMR spectroscopy in situ within the temperature range of 423–448 K. The initial part of the kinetics is defined mainly by the hydrogen exchange, whereas the final part is strongly influenced by the chemical transformation of the alkane. Analysis of the initial part has been performed on the basis of consecutive, parallel, and cyclic kinetic schemes of the H/D exchange. It has been found that both the methyl and methylene groups of n-butane are directly involved in the exchange with acidic SiOHAl groups of the zeolite. No intramolecular hydrogen exchange between the methyl and the methylene groups of the adsorbed n-butane has been detected. Similar rates of the direct exchange of either the methyl or methylene group with acidic SiOHAl groups and the apparent activation energy of 108 kJ mol$^{-1}$ are rationalized in terms of the carbonium ion mechanism of the exchange with the involvement of a pentacoordinated carbon atom in a transition state.

1. Introduction

A simple reaction of hydrogen (H/D) exchange between small alkanes and solid acid catalysts provides the pathway for understanding the alkane C–H bond activation by the catalyst active sites.1 No wonder that many efforts with both theoretical and experimental methods were made to clarify the peculiarities of mechanisms of the H/D exchange for linear and branched alkanes.2–26

While there is not any alternative to the carbonium ion mechanism of the exchange for methane2–3 and ethane6 with Brønsted acid sites, propane can be alternatively involved in the exchange with either the carbonium18 or carbenium ion17 intermediate or transition state. Regioselectivity into the methyl and low activation energy ($\sim$50 kJ mol$^{-1}$) of the exchange for isobutane have been formerly rationalized in terms of involvement of carbenium ion intermediates.5,13 Later on, a direct exchange for isobutane was claimed,21,22 despite inconsistency of the theoretical estimations of the activation energy for the direct exchange among different groups.20,22,26

For n-butane, a priori a direct H/D exchange for both the methyl and methylene groups of the linear alkane was assumed, and the regioselectivity of the exchange into either CH$_3$ or CH$_2$ groups was not analyzed.48 However, the analysis of regioselectivity of H/D exchange, which is sometimes observed for C$_3$ and C$_4$ alkanes,5,13,17,23 can be crucial for clarifying the peculiarities of alkane activation by the solid acid catalysts and establishing the mechanism of the exchange.

$^1$H magic-angle spinning (MAS) NMR can discriminate between different hydrocarbon fragments (e.g., CH$_3$ and CH$_2$ groups) of an alkane molecule in the adsorbed state at the temperature of reaction.9,13,17,23 Therefore, in situ $^1$H MAS NMR monitoring of the H/D exchange reaction allows the identification of the regioselectivity of the exchange and can differentiate among various possible mechanisms of the exchange, if carbonium or carbenium ions as intermediates or transition states are involved.9,13,18,23

In this paper, we focus on the analysis of the peculiarities of the kinetics of H/D exchange for different hydrocarbon fragments of n-butane molecule by $^1$H MAS NMR spectroscopy in situ in order to gain insight into the mechanism of the exchange for this linear alkane on acidic zeolite H-ZSM-5.

2. Experimental Section

2.1. Materials and Sample Preparation. The template-free synthesized ammonium form of zeolite ZSM-5 purchased from Tricat Zeolites was converted into H-form by the procedure described in ref 27. $^{29}$Si MAS NMR analysis28 revealed the Si/Al ratio to be equal to 13.2. $^{27}$Al MAS NMR has shown the absence of either extra framework aluminum atoms or hexacoordinated aluminum atoms. The quantity of the acidic SiOHAl groups of 1200 µmol g$^{-1}$, estimated with the use of an adsorbed internal reference (benzene), was in a good accordance with the expected quantity based on the found Si/Al ratio.

n-Butane-$d_{10}$ (99% D) and n-butane-1,1,1,4,4,4-$d_6$ (99% D) were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co. Inc. The purity of both reagents was checked by gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS). No impurities higher than the detection threshold (20 ppm) were observed for n-butane-$d_{10}$. It has been found that n-butane-$d_6$ contains 2.0% ethane and 0.6% propane, with both impurities being deuterated. No olefin impurities higher than the detection threshold (20 ppm) were detected. However, the analysis of kinetics of the H/D exchange with n-butane-$d_6$ has shown that there should be a trace quantity of olefin present in this alkane, affecting the kinetics of the exchange (vide infra). So, we additionally purified n-butane-$d_6$ and n-butane-$d_{10}$ from the possible admixed olefins by several cycles of adsorption/desorption (at 343–373 K) on zeolite...
mordenite (H-MOR) activated under vacuum, similar to the case of the studied zeolite H-ZSM-5.

The samples for NMR measurements were prepared by heating 60 mg of the zeolite sample in glass tubes of 5.5 mm outer diameter, which fit the internal diameter of the NMR rotor. For activation of the zeolite, the temperature was increased at the rate of 10 K h\(^{-1}\) under vacuum starting from room temperature. The samples were further maintained at 673 K for 24 h under vacuum (less than 10\(^{-2}\) Pa). The loading was further performed at room temperature with 2 molecules per unit cell (ca. 300 \(\mu\)mol g\(^{-1}\)) of \(n\)-butane, and the sample was further sealed off (12 mm length of the glass tube).

### 2.2. NMR Measurements

\(^1\)H MAS NMR measurements were performed on a Bruker Avance 400 spectrometer at 423–448 K and a rotation frequency of 3 kHz for the 7 mm rotor with the inserted sealed glass tube. \(^1\)H NMR spectra were recorded by using a Hahn-echo pulse sequence ((\(\pi/2\)-\(\tau\)-\(\pi\)-\(\tau\)-acquisition), where \(\tau\) equals to one rotor period (333 \(\mu\)s). The duration of the excitation pulse (\(\pi/2\)) was 4.5 \(\mu\)s. Twenty-four scans were accumulated with a 4–6 s recycle delay. The time interval for successive recorded spectra during the kinetics measurements ranged from 5 to 30 min in dependence of temperature and the rate of the protium transfer from the zeolite SiOHAl groups to the deuterated alkane molecules. The accuracy of determination of the relative line position with respect to the external standard tetramethylsilane (TMS) was 0.02 ppm.

The sample temperature was controlled by the Bruker BVT-1000 variable-temperature unit. The calibration of the temperature of the sample inside the rotor was made with an accuracy of ±2 K by means of lead nitrate as \(^{207}\)Pb MAS NMR chemical shift thermometer.\(^{29}\)

### 2.3. Kinetics Modeling

The initial parts of the kinetic curves, which corresponded mainly to the H/D exchange, were used for the analysis, since the obtained kinetic curves exhibited a rather complicated form (vide infra). They have been simulated on the basis of the reactions shown in Table 1. The reactions describe a consecutive hydrogen exchange of the methyl and methylene groups of \(n\)-butane with protons of acidic groups of the zeolite (reactions 1–5 in Table 1) as well as the intramolecular hydrogen scrambling between \(CH_2\) and \(CH_3\) groups of \(n\)-butane (reactions 6–13 in Table 1). The rate constants were supposed to be equal for reactions of the same type; that is, 13 reactions from Table 1 were characterized by three rate constants (\(k_{CH_3}\), \(k_{CH_2}\), \(k_{intra}\)). The equilibrium constants take into account the statistical factors which are caused by a particular distribution of hydrogen isotopes. The concentration of protium in all reagents and products, that is, in the methyl groups (\(CHD_3\)), the methylene groups (\(CHD_2\)), and hydroxyl groups (OH and OD), was calculated by the Runge–Kutta integration method.\(^{30}\)

The details of the kinetics modeling can be found in refs 18 and 25.

### 3. Results and Discussion

Figure 1 shows a stack plot of \(^1\)H MAS NMR spectra of \(n\)-butane-\(_{d_{10}}\) adsorbed on H-ZSM-5. \(T = 438\) K. The first spectrum (bottom) was recorded 20 min and the last one (top) 24 h after the reaction start. Time interval for two successive spectra is 40 min.

OD is easily involved in the H/D exchange even at 323 K. Isobutane on H-ZSM-5.

Figure 1 shows a stack plot of \(^1\)H MAS NMR spectra of \(n\)-butane-\(_{d_{10}}\) adsorbed on H-ZSM-5 in dependence on the reaction time. The intensities of two signals from \(CH_3\) (1.0 ppm) and \(CH_2\) groups (1.4 ppm) of \(n\)-butane slowly increase with time for the first 20 h of the reaction of the H/D exchange due to transfer of protium from the zeolite SiOHAl groups to both the methyl and methylene groups of the alkane. Simultaneously, the broad signal from the SiOHAl groups of the zeolite at \(\sim 4.5\) ppm loses its intensity (not shown). The behavior of signals of \(CH_3\) and \(CH_2\) groups with time significantly changes \(\sim 20\) h after the reaction start: a drastic increase of the signal intensity is observed for the methyl groups, whereas the intensity of the methylene groups decreases.

For the reaction of the H/D exchange between \(n\)-butane-\(_{d_{10}}\) and SiOHAl groups, the expected ratio between the intensities of the methyl and methylene groups in \(n\)-butane should be 3:2 at the end of the reaction (the condition of equilibrated distribution of protium among the acidic \(OH\) groups and the alkane). However, the final ratio between the intensities of the methyl and methylene groups was found to be 2.0–2.4 (see Figure 2). This is essentially different from the expected equilibrium value of 3:2.

\(n\)-Butane is known to undergo oligomerization-cracking, dehydrogenation, and isomerization on zeolite H-ZSM-5.\(^{4,8,31–33}\) Isobutane and propane are the main products under the conditions of a closed batch reactor.\(^{34}\) The formation of the products of \(n\)-butane chemical transformation, propane and isobutane, implies that the amount of the methyl groups should increase at the expense of the methylene groups. Moreover, the formed isobutane is easily involved in the H/D exchange even at 323 K.\(^{13}\) The fast H/D exchange of the methyl groups of the formed deuterated isobutane (exhibiting a similar chemical shift at 1.0 ppm as that for \(CH_3\) of \(n\)-butane) can reasonably rationalize a sharp growth of intensity of the signal at 1.0 ppm after 20 h of the reaction duration. The sharp increase of the intensity of the

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**TABLE 1: Exchange Reactions Used for Simulating the Kinetics of the H/D Exchange for \(n\)-Butane on H-ZSM-5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>reaction number</th>
<th>exchange reaction</th>
<th>equilibrium constant (K_{eq})</th>
<th>rate constant (k)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(CD_2+OH\rightleftharpoons CD_2H + OD)</td>
<td>3 (k_{CH_3})</td>
<td>(k_{CH_3})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>(CD_2H + OH\rightleftharpoons CD_2H_2 + OD)</td>
<td>1 (k_{CH_3})</td>
<td>(k_{CH_3})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>(CH_3 + OD\rightleftharpoons CH_3 + OD)</td>
<td>1/3 (k_{CH_3})</td>
<td>(k_{CH_3})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>(CD_2 + OH\rightleftharpoons CD_2H + OD)</td>
<td>2 (k_{CH_3})</td>
<td>(k_{CH_3})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>(CDH + OH\rightleftharpoons CH_2 + OD)</td>
<td>1/2 (k_{CH_3})</td>
<td>(k_{CH_3})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>(CDH + CD_2\rightleftharpoons CDH + CD_2)</td>
<td>1/3 (k_{intra})</td>
<td>(k_{intra})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>(CDH + CD_2\rightleftharpoons CDH + CD_2)</td>
<td>1/3 (k_{intra})</td>
<td>(k_{intra})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>(CH_3 + CD_2\rightleftharpoons CH_3 + CD_2)</td>
<td>3 (k_{intra})</td>
<td>(k_{intra})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>(CDH + CD_2\rightleftharpoons CDH + CD_2)</td>
<td>1/6 (k_{intra})</td>
<td>(k_{intra})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>(CH_3 + CD_2\rightleftharpoons CH_3 + CD_2)</td>
<td>1/2 (k_{intra})</td>
<td>(k_{intra})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>(CH_3 + CD_2\rightleftharpoons CH_3 + CD_2)</td>
<td>3/2 (k_{intra})</td>
<td>(k_{intra})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>(CH_3 + CD_2\rightleftharpoons CH_3 + CD_2)</td>
<td>2 (k_{intra})</td>
<td>(k_{intra})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>(CH_3 + CD_2\rightleftharpoons CH_3 + CD_2)</td>
<td>6 (k_{intra})</td>
<td>(k_{intra})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
methyl groups only after 20 h of the reaction obviously indicates a prolonged induction period for the process of n-butane chemical transformation by oligomerization-cracking within the temperature range of 423–448 K. A prolonged induction period provides a confirmation for the presence of only a very small amount of admixed olefins in the used deuterated butanes, which could initiate a chemical conversion of n-butane. The presence of an induction period for n-butane chemical conversion was also confirmed by 13C MAS NMR measurements. Hydrocarbons other than initial deuterated n-butanes were not observed until the end of the induction period, which has a similar duration to that found from the kinetics of hydrogen exchange. Isobutane and propane were found by 13C MAS NMR as the main products of n-butane oligomerization-cracking, while isopentane and aromatics were formed in essentially less amounts, similar to the earlier findings for 13C-labeled n-butane. Following the induction period, the degree of n-butane chemical conversion was estimated to be 30–75% depending on the final points of kinetics at different temperatures.

So, the kinetics of H/D exchange for n-butane consists of two parts. During the initial 20 h of the reaction (n-butane-d10 at 438 K), the kinetics is defined mainly by H/D exchange between the alkane and the zeolite acidic OH groups, with the contribution from the chemical transformation being negligible. After 20 h of the reaction, an essential contribution to kinetics is provided by the H/D exchange of the products of n-butane-d10 chemical conversion (mainly, isobutane). The exchange with another product of n-butane conversion, propane, is extremely slow at 423–448 K.


The analysis of initial part of the kinetics, which corresponds to the H/D exchange of n-butane with the zeolite SiOHAI groups, has been performed within the frames of parallel, cyclic, and consecutive schemes of the exchange (Scheme 1). The temperature dependence of experimental kinetics, which offered the activation energies for the H/D exchange, was investigated in a rather narrow temperature range of 423–448 K, because the contribution from the chemical conversion to the experimental kinetics was negligible only at temperatures below 448 K.

The parallel scheme enables an exchange of both the methyl and methylene groups of n-butane with involvement of carbonium or carbenium ion mechanisms. The carbonium ion mechanism implies that both the methyl and the methylene groups are directly involved in the exchange with the acidic OH groups through the intermediate formation of pentacoordinated carbon atoms in a transition state as shown in Scheme 2. The carbenium ion mechanism implies the intermediate formation of the sec-butyl cation from n-butane, its subsequent deprotonation to form n-butene-1 and n-butene-2, and further reprotonation of the butenes to give again sec-butyl cation, enriched with protium in the methyl and methylene groups (Scheme 3). Only fast interconversion of the intermediate butenes involving acidic OH groups or fast hydrogen scrambling via a protonated cyclopropane in proton enriched butyl cation can provide a transfer of the protium from the acidic OH groups of the zeolite into both the methyl and methylene groups of deuterated n-butane.

The consecutive scheme describes a carbenium ion mechanism, for which a thermodynamically more stable n-butene-2 is preferentially formed following the sec-butyl cation deprotonation. A further reprotonation of the n-butene-2 enriches the methylene groups of the sec-butyl cation with protium. This should provide a regioselective exchange into the methylene group of n-butane by hydride ion transfer reaction with n-butane-d10 (Scheme 3). However, an additional possible stage of hydrogen atom scrambling in the butyl cation offers a transfer of protium also into the methyl groups. So both the methyl and the methylene groups could be involved in the exchange.
The cyclic kinetic scheme implies the existence of an additional stage of intramolecular exchange between the methyl and methylene groups for the carbonium ion mechanism. This intramolecular transfer of hydrogen atoms can be realized with an intermediate formation of sec-butyl cations, in which the hydrogen atom scrambling occurs.

**Consecutive Scheme of Exchange.** Figure 2 shows experimental results and kinetics simulations on the basis of the consecutive scheme of the exchange. Reactions 4–13 from Table 1 were taken into account for simulations. It can be seen from Figure 2 that simulated curves correspond fairly satisfactorily to experimental kinetics for \( n \)-butane-\( d_{10} \), when \( k_{\text{intra}} = 85 \times k_{\text{CH}_2} \), that is, when intramolecular exchange is essentially faster than the exchange of the acidic OH groups with methylene groups. For \( n \)-butane-\( d_6 \), fast intramolecular exchange should provide a fast decrease of the intensity of the signal from the methylene (\( \text{CH}_2 \)) groups (Figure 2b). However, the experimental kinetics show that, for the first 170 min of the reaction, when only the H/D exchange takes place (Table 2), the intensity of the methylene groups decreases only faintly. This does not support the existence of the stage of fast intramolecular exchange. So, the exchange cannot be rationalized in the frame of the consecutive scheme.

**Parallel Scheme of Exchange.** Similar to the analysis of the consecutive scheme, only the starting regions of the kinetic curves during the induction period for chemical conversion (Table 2), which describe mainly the H/D exchange of \( n \)-butane with the zeolite acidic OH groups, were simulated based on reactions 1–5 from Table 1. The simulated curves in Figures 3 and 4 are in good agreement with the experimental kinetics for both \( n \)-butane-\( d_{10} \) and \( n \)-butane-\( d_6 \). We obtain approximately equal rate constants \( k_{\text{CH}_3} \) and \( k_{\text{CH}_2} \) for variously deuterated \( n \)-butanes (Table 3). This means that there is a consistency of the kinetics of the exchange for two differently deuterated \( n \)-butanes within the frame of the parallel scheme of the exchange. The apparent activation energy \( (E_a) \) for the exchange was estimated from the Arrhenius plot to be about 108 kJ mol\(^{-1}\) for both the methyl and the methylene groups of \( n \)-butane-\( d_{10} \)

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**TABLE 2: Duration of the Induction Period \( \tau_{\text{ind}} \) for the Chemical Transformation of \( n \)-Butane-\( d_{10} \) and \( n \)-Butane-\( d_6 \) on H-ZSM-5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( T ) (K)</th>
<th>( \tau_{\text{ind}} ) (min) ( n )-butane-( d_{10} )</th>
<th>( \tau_{\text{ind}} ) (min) ( n )-butane-( d_6 )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>423</td>
<td>4200</td>
<td>1380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>428</td>
<td>3140</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>433</td>
<td>1690</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>438</td>
<td>1070</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>443</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>448</td>
<td>340</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE 3: Rate constants of the H/D exchange for the methyl and methylene groups of \( n \)-Butane-\( d_{10} \) and \( n \)-Butane-\( d_6 \) on H-ZSM-5, based on the parallel scheme of the exchange.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( T ) (K)</th>
<th>( k_{\text{CH}_3} ) ( \times 10^7 ) g ( \mu \text{mol}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1} )</th>
<th>( k_{\text{CH}_2} ) ( \times 10^7 ) g ( \mu \text{mol}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1} )</th>
<th>( k_{\text{CH}_3} ) ( \times 10^7 ) g ( \mu \text{mol}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1} )</th>
<th>( k_{\text{CH}_2} ) ( \times 10^7 ) g ( \mu \text{mol}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>423</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>428</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>433</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>438</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>443</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>448</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**SCHEME 3: Catalytic Cycle Which Could Provide a Carbenium Ion Mechanism of the H/D Exchange for \( n \)-Butane-\( d_{10} \) on Acidic Zeolite**

![Scheme 3 diagram](image-url)
n-butane, which are in good correspondence with theoretical estimations of $E_a$ for primary and secondary carbons of this linear alkane,$^{19,24}$ provide a confirmation that the hydrogen exchange occurs by the mechanism with involvement of the pentacoordinated carbonium ion in the transition state. Essentially lower values of apparent activation energy (50−54 kJ mol$^{-1}$) were found earlier for the carbonium ion mechanism of the exchange for isobutane on H-ZSM-5$^{13}$ or propane on sulfated zirconia.$^{17}$

It is worth noting that, possessing similar activation energies with propane,$^{9,18,37}$ the exchange occurs faster in n-butane. It should be about five times faster for the methyl groups at 448 K; see ref 18. Moreover, n-butane exhibits equal rate constants for the methyl and methylene groups (see Table 3), whereas $k_{CH_3} \approx 1.5k_{CH_2}$ for propane.$^{18}$ The case with propane finds its rationalization by the decisive contribution of the entropy factor into the exchange rate constant. Bučko et al.$^{24}$ have shown that the probability of the formation of an adsorption complex of propane with a Brønsted acid site via the methylene group is about 17 times lower than that via a methyl group. The equal rate constants for the methyl and methylene groups of n-butane indicate that there is no preference in the formation of the pentacoordinated carbonium ion transition state with either the methyl or the methylene group; entropic effects to $k_{CH_3}$ and $k_{CH_2}$ of n-butane should be identical.

Narbeshuber et al.$^{8,42}$ have drawn similar conclusions about the mechanism of H/D exchange for n-butane on H-ZSM-5 zeolite. However, they reported a lower value of $E_a$ for the H/D exchange (80−85 kJ mol$^{-1}$). The value of $E_a$ reported in refs 8 and 42 was obtained from the analysis of the isotope transient response experiments (SSITR) under flow conditions and at much higher temperatures (673−823 K). They also determined the activation energy by in situ IR spectroscopy$^8$ based on initial rates for the H/D exchange reaction, which were extremely fast under their conditions. A time threshold of $\sim 15$ s between two points in the experimental kinetics was too short, which could lead to an understatement of the activation energy value in the IR experiment. Thus, the different experimental conditions can account for the discrepancy of $E_a$ in refs 8 and 42 with our values of activation energy.

**Cyclic Scheme of Exchange.** Reactions 1−13 from Table 1 were further used as the basis for simulating the kinetic curves based on the cyclic scheme. The simulation has shown that the contribution of intramolecular exchange cannot be reliably estimated by the analysis of the kinetics for fully deuterated n-butane-$d_{10}$ ($k_{\text{intra}}$) which did not exceed the rate constants $k_{CH_3}$ or $k_{CH_2}$ earlier found in the frame of the parallel scheme of the exchange, $k_{\text{intra}} \leq k_{CH_3} = k_{CH_2}$.

A contribution of intramolecular exchange could be better estimated from the analysis of the kinetics for n-butane-$d_6$. Figure 7a shows that the experimental kinetics can be described with $k_{\text{intra}} = 0$ and equal $k_{CH_3}$ and $k_{CH_2}$ if $k_{\text{intra}} = 0$ and $k_{\text{intra}} \leq k_{CH_3} = k_{CH_2}$ as estimated for n-butane-$d_{10}$, the equilibration of protium concentrations between the methyl and methylene groups starts at the beginning of the reaction, with the intensity of the CH$_2$ groups fast decreasing (Figure 7b). This indicates that intramolecular hydrogen exchange between the methyl and methylene groups of n-butane does not take place. The cyclic scheme of the hydrogen exchange is not realized for n-butane on H-ZSM-5 zeolite.

**4. Conclusion**

In situ $^1$H MAS NMR monitoring (423−448 K) of the transformation of deuterated n-butanes (n-butane-$d_{10}$ and n-butane-
The hydrogen exchange of deuterated n-butanes at 423–448 K is complicated with increasing reaction time by chemical transformation of the alkane via isomerization and oligomerization-cracking reactions. The induction period of the chemical transformation of n-butane is sensitive to the admixture of olefins within their threshold of 20 ppm. The kinetics of the H/D exchange within the induction period for chemical conversion could be analyzed. The modeling of the kinetic curves with regard to different possible kinetic schemes of the H/D exchange allows us to conclude that both the methyl and methylene groups of n-butane are directly involved in the exchange with Brønsted acid sites of the zeolite. The intramolecular hydrogen exchange between the methyl and the methylene groups of n-butane does not take place. Similar rates of exchange into the methyl and methylene groups and the activation energy of 108 kJ mol\(^{-1}\) presume the carbocation mechanism of the exchange involving a pentacoordinated carbon atom in the transition state.

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