Effect of Deaeration on the Corrosion of Pure Aluminum and Its Three alloys in NaOH solution at pH=11

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Received on: 9/12/2007 Accepted on:5/3/2009

Abstract

In this work, the corrosion behaviour of pure Al and its three alloys (Al-Cu-Mg, Al-Mg, and Al-Zn-Mg) was studied in aerated and deaerated 1×10^{-3} mol.dm⁻³ NaOH solutions to show the role of dissolved oxygen gas and its reduction at cathode. Also the aim of this study was to obtain the corrosion parameters such as the corrosion potential (E_{corr}), corrosion current density (i_{corr}), cathodic and anodic Tafel slopes (b), and polarization resistance (R_p) besides the thermodynamic and kinetic functions were also calculated (Δ G, Δ S, and Δ H) and (E_a and log A) to comparison these values in the presence and absence of the oxygen.

From the general results for this study can be seen that the polarization resistances for pure Al and its alloys were higher in deaerated solutions and the values of (ΔG) were less spontaneous in deaerated solution, also the activation energy (energy barrier) was higher in deaerated solution.

Keywords: Corrosion of Aluminium and its alloy, Effect of deaeration on corrosion, Thermodynamic and Kinetic function of corrosion.

في هذا العمل تم دراسة السلوك التأكلي اللامنيوم النقي وثلاث من سبائكه (المنيوم-نحاس-مغنيسيوم و المنيوم-مغنيسيوم و المنيوم-زنك-مغنيسيوم) في محلول هيدروكسيد الصوديوم فــي حالــة التهويــة وعدمها وذلك لمعرفة دور الاوكسجين المذاب وأختز اله الحاصل عند الكاثود. وقد تم حــساب البيانــات الخاصة بالسلوك الاستقطابي والممثلة بجهد التاكل وكثافة تيار التاكل وميول تافل ومقاومة الاستقطاب. كما تم حساب الدوال الثرموديناميكية والمتضمنة التغير في الطاقــة الحــرة لكيــبس والتغيـر فــي

كما لم كساب الدوال المرموديا ميديد والمتصمانة التعين في الصاحب الحسرة لديسبس والتعيس ال الانتروبي والانثالبي بالاضافة الى الدوال الحركية والتي تشمل حساب طاقة التنشيط ولوغساريتم ثابست ارينيوس ومقارنة النتائج في حالة غياب ووجود الاوكسجين.

وقد اظهرت النتائج عموماً، بان مقاومة الاستقطاب كانت اكبر في حالة المحاليل عديمة التهوية، كما وان قيم الطاقة الحرة لكيبس كانت اقل تلقائية بغياب الاوكسجين هذا بلاضافة الى ان قيم طاقة التنــشيط والتي تمثل حاجز الطاقة كانت اعلى في المحاليل عديمة التهوية.

Introduction

Most aqueous solution are in contact with the atmosphere and it contain dissolved oxygen, which act as a cathode reactant. The saturated solubility of oxygen in pure water at 25° C is only about 1×10^{-3} mol.dm⁻³, and the solubility decreases significantly with increase in temperature and slightly with concentration of dissolved salts. On the other hand, the concentration of H_3O^+ in acid solutions is high, and since this ion has high rate of diffusion, its rate of

https://doi.org/10.30684/eti.27.8.9

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reduction is normally controlled by the activation energy for electrode transfer.

Furthermore, the vigorous evolution of hydrogen that occurs during corrosion facilities transport, so that diffusion is not a significant factor in controlling the rate of the reaction except at very high current densities. As the pH in acid solution increases the hydrogen evolution reaction becomes kinetically more difficult, and requires a higher overpotential.

The situation is different, however, in near-neutral or alkaline solutions in which the concentration of H_3O^+ will be small (< 1×10^{-7} mol.dm⁻³), and in these solutions the water molecule will act as the electron acceptor, and although diffusion occurs rapidly, its reduction is kinetically more diffusion than that of H_3O^+ , and will therefore require a higher activation overpotential[1].

Aluminium-base alloys are relatively insensitive to the concentrations of oxygen present in most aqueous solutions. In general, high concentrations of dissolved oxygen tend to stimulate attack some what, especially in acid solution, although this effect is less pronounced than for most of the other common metals [see Table (1)].

Carbon dioxide or hydrogen sulfide, even in high concentrations, appears to have a slight inhibiting action on the effect of aqueous solutions on aluminium alloys. Water solutions of sulfur dioxide have some etching action on aluminium, but even so aluminium resists the action of such solutions better than copper or steel [see Table (2)]. Water solutions of hydrogen, nitrogen and chloride are strongly corrosive to aluminium. Hydrogen and nitrogen are without effect, except as they influence the oxygen content [2].

Experimental Part

Aluminium and its alloys were cut into square shape with (1 cm^2) area, and made

into electrode by pressing a copper wire into a hole on one side and then insulating all but one side with an epoxy resin.

The exposed area was grinding on emery papers 220, 500, and 800 – mesh grit. A braiding was done by powderdriven wheels. The alloys used Al-Cu-Mg (2024), Al-Mg (5083), and Al-Zn-Mg (7075).

The electrochemical cell was of the usual type with provision for working electrode (pure metal and its alloys), auxiliary electrode (Pt electrode), and a Luggin capillary for connection with an SCE reference electrode.

The basic solution was NaOH solution with concentrations of $(1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol.dm}^{-3})$ which corresponding to pH value of (11), NaOH obtained by Ferak with M.wt 40 g.mol⁻¹ and purity >99.5%, which prepare in distilled water (specific conductivity $1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ S.m}^{-1}$).

To study the effect of deaerated condition, the solution was purged for a minimum of 2 hour with nitrogen gas (purity 99.99%) at rate of 150cm³/min to remove oxygen from solution.

Electrochemical measurements were performed with a potentiostat (Corroscript) which was obtained from Tacussel (France) at a scan rate of 0.3 mVolt per minute. The main results obtained were expressed in terms of the corrosion potentials (E_{corr}) and corrosion current density (i_{corr}) in addition to calculate the cathodic and anodic Tafel slopes by using extrapolation method.

Results and Discussion

- Corrosion Behaviour

Figure (1) shows a typical curve of the polarization for pure Al metal and its three alloy in aerated 1×10^{-3} mol.dm⁻³ NaOH solution (pH = 11) at 313 K, which was showed the regions that observed in the behaviour of metal or alloy under experimental solution.

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The section (abc) represents the cathodic region where the reduction reaction can be occur as shown in the following reaction:

$$O_2 + 2H_2O + 4e \leftrightarrow 4OH^-$$

Anodic dissolution of pure Al and its alloys begin at point (c) and continue along (cde) forming AlO_2^{-1} ion.

$$Al^{3+} + 2H_2O \leftrightarrow AlO_2^{-} + 4H^{+}$$

Along this section the metal hydroxide is expected to be formed according to the following reactions :

$$Al + 3OH^{-} \rightarrow Al(OH)_{3} + 3e$$
$$Al(OH)_{3} + OH^{-} \rightarrow Al(OH)_{4}^{-}$$

The difference between the polarization behaviour in aerated and deaerated solution for pure Al and its alloy was in the corrosion parameters E_{corr} , i_{corr} , b ..etc. only and there are no effect on the general behaviour of polarization curve as shown in Fig. (2).

Generally, the deaeration leads to shift the corrosion potentials to the noble direction and the corrosion current densities to the lower values. This is may be due to the decreasing in the cathodic reaction which contains the reduction of oxygen to hydroxide ions and the following reaction can be occurring:

$$H_2O + e \rightarrow 1/2 H_2 + OH^{-1}$$

In addition to this, the presence of oxygen in solution reacts with hydrogen to produce water molecules, then the absence of oxygen lead to accumulate the hydrogen on the electrode and impedance the hydrogen ions (H^+) to neutralize at cathode and then reduce the rate of reaction.

By using Tafel extrapolation method can be calculate cathodic and anodic Tafel slopes (b_c and b_a) [3].

The polarization resistance (R_p) may be defined as the slope of a potential (ΔE)-current density (Δi) as [4,5]:

$$R_p = \left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial i}\right)_{T,C} ath \to 0 \quad \dots (1)$$

where η , overpotential ($\eta = E - E_{corr}$).

From the polarization resistance R_p , the corrosion current density i_{corr} can be calculated as :

$$i_{corr} = \frac{b}{R_p}$$
(2)

Where β is a combination of the anodic and cathodic Tafel slopes (b_a, b_c) as :

$$b = \frac{b_a b_c}{2.303(b_a + b_c)} \qquad \dots (3)$$

For the general case, by inserting equation (2) into equation (3) one obtains the so - called the Stern - Geary equation[6]:

$$R_{p} = \frac{b_{a}b_{c}}{2.303(b_{a}+b_{c})i_{corr}}\dots(4)$$

The values of R_p have been calculated from equation (4), which is presented in tables (3) to (6). The term (R_p) corresponds to the resistance (*R*) of the metal/solution interface to charge – transfer reaction. It is also a measure of the resistance of the metal to corrosion in the solution in which the metal is immersed. In general, the difference in polarization resistance takes the following sequence:

$$Rp (\Omega.cm^{-2})$$
 Al-Zn-Mg alloy > Al-Cu-
Mg alloy > Al-Mg alloy > pure Al

Generally, Tables (3) to (6) show that the polarization resistance in the absence of oxygen higher than the polarization resistance in the presence of oxygen, this is enhancing the results of corrosion potentials and current densities. The absence of oxygen in solution leads to reduce the main cathodic reaction

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(reduction of oxygen to hydroxide ions) and because of alkali solution the reduction of hydrogen ions was slightly occurrence and then reduces the cathodic reaction. The decreasing of any reaction (anodic or cathodic) leads to decreases the rate of reaction or the corrosion current density, this means increasing the resistance of electrode according to ohm law (R=E/I).

- Thermodynamic Function

Thermodynamic laws tell us that there is a strong tendency for high energy state in a system to transform into low energy state. It is this tendency of metals to recombine with components of the environment that leads to the phenomenon known as corrosion[7]. The change in free energy (ΔG) is a direct measure of the work capacity or maximum electric energy available from system. The free-energy change а electrochemical accompanying an reaction can be calculated by the following equation[1]:

$$\Delta G = -nFE \qquad \dots \dots (5)$$

where ΔG is the free – energy change, *n* is the number of electrons involved in the reaction (in this study = 3), *F* is the Faraday constant (96484 C.mol⁻¹), and *E* is the corrosion potential and its sign is reversed prior to its use in equation (5) to represent the potential of the reversibly operating cell and not the applied potential from the potentiostat.

Table (7), show that the values of ΔG were negative suggesting the existence of thermodynamic feasibility for the corrosion of the electrodes materials in 1x10⁻³ mol.dm⁻³ NaOH solution. The values of free energy change show, in general, that the reactions of corrosion in presence the of oxygen more spontaneous than in the absence of oxygen in environment, since the oxygen increase of the cathodic reaction and then increases the corrosion.

From the value of ΔG at several temperatures, as shown in Fig. (3a, b), the change in the entropy (ΔS) of corrosion process could be derived according to the well – known thermodynamic relation:

Values of ΔS were generally positive due to negativity of ΔG , this suggests a lower order in the solvated states of the metal ions as compared with the state of metal atoms in the crystal lattice of the corroding electrodes.

The change in free energy, ΔG , is related to ΔH , the change in the enthalpy, and ΔS , the change in entropy of the corrosion reaction at a constant temperature, T, by the equation[8,9]:

 $\Delta G = \Delta H - T \Delta S \qquad \dots \dots (7)$

Values of the enthalpy of corrosion (ΔH) reflect the enthalpy changes associated with the corrosion reaction and ranged from negative to positive values indicating exothermic or endothermic nature of corrosion reaction.

- Kinetic Functions

The rate (r) of corrosion in a given environment is directly proportional with its corrosion current density (i_{corr}) in accordance with the relation[10,11]:

$$r = 0.13 (e/r) i_{corr}$$
(8)

here (e) is the equivalent weight of the metal and (ρ) is its density. For the increasing values of (i_{corr}) with a temperature follow Arrhenius equation, it is reasonable as:

$$i_{corr} = A \exp(-E_a / RT) \quad \dots (9)$$

where A and E_a are the pre-exponential factor and energy of activation of the corrosion process respectively.

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Values of E_a were derived from the slopes of the (log icorr) versus (1/T) linear plots, while those of (A) were obtained from the intercepts of the plots at (1/T=zero) as shown in Fig. (4a, b). The results were shown in Table (8), from these results it can be seen that the activation energy values (E_a) in deaerated solution were higher than of the aerated solution except for Al-Cu-Mg alloy. The activation energy represents the energy barrier which required to forming the production of corrosion. The results (E_a), in general, enhance the decreasing rate of reaction in the absence of oxygen in solution. Also the results of (log A) values in deaerated solution were higher than of the aerated solution except for Al-Cu-Mg alloy.

The relationship existed between values of the activation energy (E_a) and logarithm of pre – exponential factor (log A) in different media suggesting the operation of a compensation effect in kinetics of corrosion. This suggests that, the corrosion reaction proceeds on surface sites, which were associated with different energies of activation.

The corrosion reaction is assumed to start on sites with lower (E_a) and (log A) values first, spending thereafter to those sites on which (Ea) and (log A) were higher. The results of Fig.(5) indicate the existence of a linear relationship between the values of (log A) and the corresponding values of (E_a) which may be expressed as[12]:

$$\log A = mE_a + I \qquad \dots \dots (10)$$

where m and I are respectively the slope and intercept of the plots, such a behaviour is referred to as "compensation effect" which describes the kinetics of a great number of catalytic and tarnishing reactions on metals[13,14]. Above equation indicates that simultaneous increases or decreases in (E_a) and $(\log A)$ for a system tend to compensate from the standpoint of the reaction rate.

A number of interpretations[15] have been offered for the phenomenon of the compensation effect in surface reaction, among which the effect could be ascribed to the presence of energetically heterogeneous reaction solution. A decrease in (E_a) at constant (log A) implies a higher rate, while an increase in (E_a) at constant (log A) implies a lower rate.

Simultaneous increase in (E_a) and $(\log A)$ therefore tend to compensate from the standpoint of the corrosion rate. When such compensation operates, it is possible for striking variations in (E_a) and $(\log A)$ through a series of surface sites on a metal or an alloy to yield only a small variation in reactivity, as shown in Fig. (5).

Conclusions

From the results of the polarization behaviour of pure Al and its alloys, it can be seen that removed the oxygen from the environment of corrosion decrease the rate of reaction. This phenomenon can be note during the data of polarization resistance (R_p) in addition to the data of the change in free energy (ΔG) and the activation energy (E_a) and compensation effect. The reason of this phenomenon indicates that the cathodic reactions decrease because of the absence oxygen in the medium, where the main cathodic reaction is reduction of oxygen to the hydroxide ions.

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Table (1) : Effect of gas atmosphere on the corrosion rate of Aluminium. Test run on three specimens. Immersed area of specimen – 37.8 sq cm., Volume of solution -150 ml., Temperature – room., Rate of aeration -15 ml per min.

Solution	Gas	Duration	Corrosion rate		
Solution	Ous	of test	ipy	mdd	
1.0% Na ₂ CO ₃	Oxygen bubbled through solution	18 hr	0.17	320	
$1.0\% Na_2 CO_3$	Air bubbled through solution	18 hr	0.17	320	
1.0% Na ₂ CO ₃	Nitrogen bubbled through solution	18 hr	0.18	338	
0.1% NaOH	Oxygen bubbled through solution	6 hr	0.65	1220	
0.1% NaOH	Air bubbled through solution	6 hr	0.64	1200	
0.1% NaOH	Nitrogen bubbled through solution	6 hr	0.63	1190	
0.1% HCl	Oxygen bubbled through solution	48 hr	0.066	124	
0.1% HCl	Air bubbled through solution	48 hr	0.036	68	
0.1% HCl	Nitrogen bubbled through solution	48 hr	0.006	11	
0.1% HCl	Air over quiescent solution	48 hr	0.007	13	

Table (2) : Resistance of aluminium to water solution of several gases.

Metal	Carbon di wa		Sulfur dio and v	· · ·	Hydrogen sulfide an water		
metut	Av. Wt. loss (gm)	Av. (ipy)	Av. Wt. loss (gm)	Av. (ipy)	Av. Wt. loss (gm)	Av. (ipy)	
Al	0.0003	0.00004	0.150	0.0498	0.002	0.00028	
Си			0.681	0.0701	0.237	0.01030	
Steel	0.2153	0.00977	8.583	1.02	1.366	0.06800	

Table (3) : Values of E_{corr} corrosion potentials, corrosion current densities i_{corr} , cathodic and anodic Tafel slopes b_c and b_a , and polarization resistances R_p , for the polarization of pure aluminium in 1x10⁻³ mol.dm⁻³ NaOH solution at four temperatures.

Envir-	Т	, Corrosion		l (V.dec	b cade ⁻¹)	$R_{p}/10^{+2}$	
onment	(K)	-E _{corr} (V)	i _{corr} A.cm ⁻²	- b _c	$+b_a$	Ωcm^{-2}	
	298	1.66	5.86x10 ⁻⁴	0.028	0.031	0.1092	
Aerated	303	1.64	$7.81 \ x10^{-4}$	0.030	0.032	0.0862	
Аегиеи	308	1.63	9.77 x10 ⁻⁴	0.034	0.035	0.0767	
	313	1.62	$11.72 \ x10^{-4}$	0.036	0.040	0.0703	
	298	1.66	$0.147 x 10^{-6}$	0.036	0.031	492.66	
De-	303	1.62	$0.220 \ x 10^{-6}$	0.037	0.033	344.721	
aerated	308	1.58	$0.275 \ x10^{-6}$	0.038	0.040	308.098	
	313	1.56	$0.550 \ x10^{-6}$	0.042	0.047	175.334	

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 $\begin{array}{l} Table \ (4): Values \ of \ corrosion \ potentials \ E_{corr} \ , corrosion \ current \ densities \ i_{corr}, \ cathodic \ and \ anodic \ Tafel \ slopes \ b_c \ and \ b_a, \ and \ polarization \ resistances \ R_p \ \ for \ the \ polarization \ of \ Al-Cu-Mg \ alloy \ in \ 1x10^{-3} \ mol.dm^{-3} \ \ NaOH \ solution \ at \ four \ temperatures. \end{array}$

Envir-	Т	Corr	osion	b (V.decade ⁻¹)		$R_{-}/10^{+2}$	
onment	1 (K)	-E _{corr} (V)	<i>i</i> _{corr} /10 ⁻⁶ A.cm ⁻²	- b _c	+ b _a	$\frac{R_p/10^{+2}}{\Omega cm^{-2}}$	
	298	1.50	8.87	0.026	0.043	7.942	
Aerated	303	1.46	17.24	0.029	0.048	4.559	
Петигеи	308	1.44	18.23	0.060	0.052	6.644	
	313	1.42	19.70	0.063	0.054	6.417	
	298	1.48	0.19	0.033	0.032	371.766	
De-aerated	303	1.46	0.25	0.035	0.034	299.937	
	308	1.45	0.29	0.043	0.047	336.665	
	313	1.43	0.34	0.051	0.107	441.662	

 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Table (5): Values of corrosion potentials E_{corr}, corrosion current densities i_{corr}, cathodic and anodic Tafel slopes b_c and b_a, and polarization resistances R_p for the polarization of $Al-Mg$ alloy in $1x10^{-3}$ mol.dm⁻³ NaOH solution at four temperatures. \end{tabular}$

Envir-	Т	Corrosion		l (V.dec	·	$\frac{R_p/10^{+2}}{\Omega cm^{-2}}$	
onment	(K)	(K) -E _{corr} (V)	<i>i_{corr} /10⁻⁶</i> <i>A.cm⁻²</i>	- b _c	$+b_a$	Ωcm^{-2}	
Aerated	298	1.66	8.74	0.034	0.031	8.0665	
	303	1.65	9.66	0.035	0.032	7.5238	
neruieu	308	1.64	11.49	0.036	0.034	6.6166	
	313	1.63	13.79	0.037	0.036	5.7529	
De-aerated	298	1.55	0.11	0.028	0.028	553.35	
	303	1.53	0.34	0.030	0.034	203.80	
	308	1.48	0.59	0.036	0.045	147.38	
	313	1.44	0.91	0.068	0.047	132.78	

 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Table (6): Values of corrosion potentials E_{corr}, corrosion current densities i_{corr}, cathodic and anodic Tafel slopes b_c and b_a, and polarization resistances R_p for the polarization of $Al-Zn-Mg$ alloy in $1x10^{-3}$ mol.dm⁻³ NaOH solution at four temperatures. \end{tabular}$

Envir-	Т	Corrosion		b (V.decade ⁻¹)		$R_{p}/10^{+2}$
onment	(K)	-E _{corr} (V)	<i>i_{corr} /10⁻⁶</i> <i>A.cm⁻²</i>	- b _c	$+b_a$	$\hat{\Omega}$ cm ⁻²
	298	1.75	6.23	0.031	0.041	12.319
Aerated	303	1.60	7.27	0.032	0.042	10.861
Петагеа	308	1.56	8.65	0.035	0.043	9.6983
	313	1.50	10.38	0.039	0.045	8.7513
	298	1.60	0.09	0.028	0.047	847.66
De-aerated	303	1.48	0.17	0.030	0.054	493.24
	308	1.46	0.69	0.052	0.064	180.77
	313	1.41	1.21	0.062	0.086	129.45

Tables (7) : The thermodynamic quantities for pure Al and its alloy in 1x10⁻³ mol.dm⁻³ NaOH solution at pH=11 at four temperatures.

Elect. T (K)			ΔG nole ⁻¹)	$\frac{\Delta S}{(J.mol^{-1}.K^{-1})}$			<u>АН</u> (kJ.mole ⁻¹)	
	(A)	Aerated	Deaerated	Aerated	Deaerated	Aerated	Deaerated	
	298	480.54	480.54		74450.2	-256.27	21905.56	
Pure Al	303	474.75	468.91	752.6		-	-	
1 110 111	308	471.85	457.33	752.0	71130.2	-	-	
	313	468.96	451.55			-	-	
	298	434.18	428.39		926.0	14.40	-152.442	
Al-Cu-Mg	303	422.60	422.60	1505.3		-	-	
111-Cu-111g	308	419.71	419.71	1505.5		-	-	
	313	411.02	413.92			-	-	
	298	480.54	448.65			-308.03	206.890	
Al-Mg	303	477.64	442.86	578.9	2199.8	-	-	
111-1115	308	474.75	428.39	570.7	21//.0	-	-	
	313	471.85	416.81			-	-	
	298	506.59	463.17			856.40	555.454	
Al-Zn-Mg	303	463.17	428.39	4573.8	3418.2	-	-	
11-211-1115	308	451.59	422.60		5710.2	-	-	
	313	434.22	408.13			-	-	

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Table (8) : Values of activation energy (E_a), log pre- exponential factors log(A) for pure Al and its alloys in 1x10⁻³ mol.dm⁻³ NaOH solution at pH=11.

Electrode	$E_a (kJ.mol^{-1})$	Log A	$E_a \\ (kJ.mol^{-1})$	Log A
	Aerated	Aerated	Deaerated	Deaerated
Pure Al	35.78	3.048	64.71	4.489
Al-Cu-Mg	38.29	1.733	29.44	-1.548
Al-Mg	23.86	-0.887	107.22	11.911
Al-Zn-Mg	26.43	-0.577	142.67	17.925

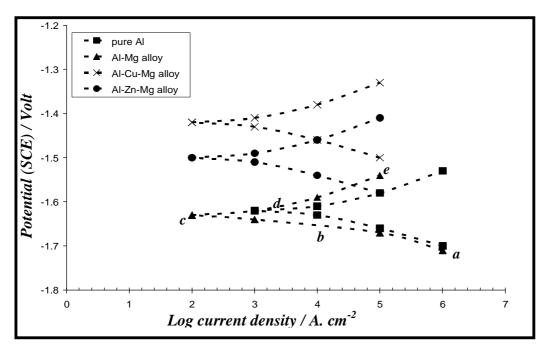


Fig. (1) : The Typical polarization curve of pure Al and its alloys in aerated NaOH solution at pH = 11 and 313K.

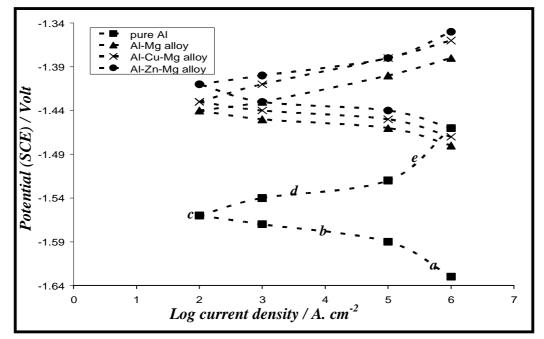
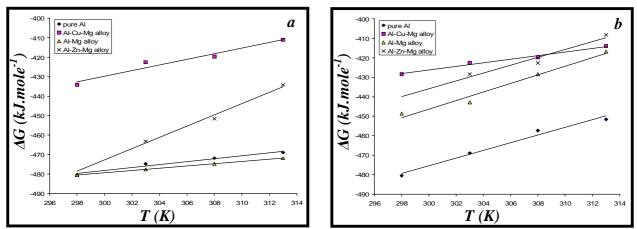
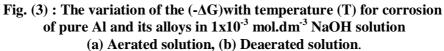
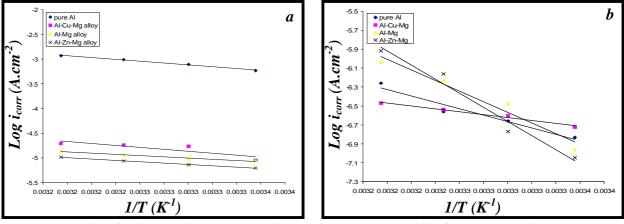


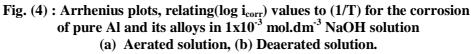
Fig. (2) : The Typical polarization curve of pure Al and its alloys in deaerated NaOH solution at pH = 11 and 313K.

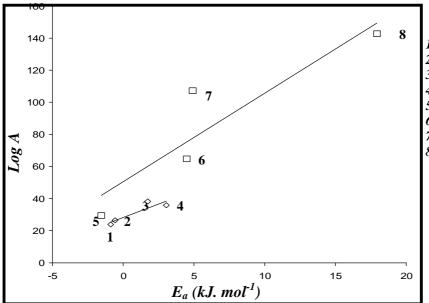




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1-Al-Mg in aerated solution
2-Al-Zn-Mg in aerated solution
3-Al-Cu-Mg in aerated solution
4-pure Al in aerated solution
5-Al-Cu-Mg in deaerated solution
6-pure Al in deaerated solution
7-Al-Mg in deaerated solution
8-Al-Zn-Mg in deaerated solution.

Fig. (5) : Log A values plotted against E_a for pure Al and its alloys in $1x10^{-3}$ mol.dm⁻³ NaOH solution.