



# Carbon Deposition in Heterogeneous Catalysis

## Introduction

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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

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### CHEMISTRY

Methane decomposes over a Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst according to the overall chemical reaction



Under atmospheric pressure, the temperature 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):

$$r = k \cdot \frac{P_{\text{CH}_4} - \frac{P_{\text{H}_2}^2}{K_p}}{(1 + k_{\text{H}} \sqrt{P_{\text{H}_2}})^2} \quad (2)$$

where

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

$$k_{\text{H}} = \exp\left(\frac{1.632 \cdot 10^5 \text{ J/mol}}{R_g T} - 22.426\right)$$

and

$$K_p = 5.088 \cdot 10^5 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{9.12 \cdot 10^4 \text{ J}/(\text{mol})}{R_g T}\right)$$

The constant  $k_0$  in Equation 3 is  $2.31 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol}/(\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{s})$ , supposing the amount of catalyst being  $1 \text{ g}/\text{m}^3$ . 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:  $\text{mol}/(\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{s})$ ) for each species, takes into account the reaction stoichiometry coefficients,  $\nu_i$ , the reaction rate reported in Equation 2,  $r \text{ mol}/(\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{s})$ , and the catalyst activity,  $a$ :

$$R_i = \nu_i r a$$

The mass balances of the reacting species are then

$$\frac{dc_{CH_4}}{dt} = -r a$$

$$\frac{dc_C}{dt} = r a$$

$$\frac{dc_{H_2}}{dt} = 2r a$$

The time dependence of the catalytic activity is expressed by

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

where

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

where  $k_{a0}$  is  $8.324 \cdot 10^6 (\text{m}^3/\text{mol})^3 \cdot \text{s}$ . 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

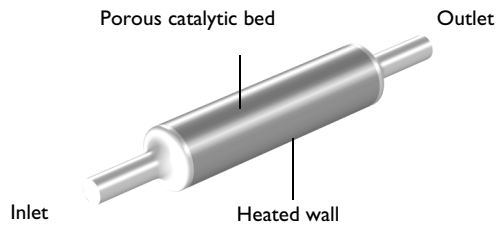
account by removing its effect on gas phase physical properties. The pressure in the reactor is a function of only the methane and hydrogen concentrations:

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

### 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.

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*Figure 1: Methane enters from the left and reacts in the porous catalytic bed in the porous catalytic bed of the geometry. 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

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

where  $k_{\text{por}}$  is a constant,  $M_C$  (kg/mol) is the carbon molar weight, and  $\rho_{\text{soot}}$  (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*

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### **IDEAL REACTOR MODEL**

Figure 2 shows the concentration transients of methane, hydrogen, and deposited carbon as methane decomposes over a Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 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.

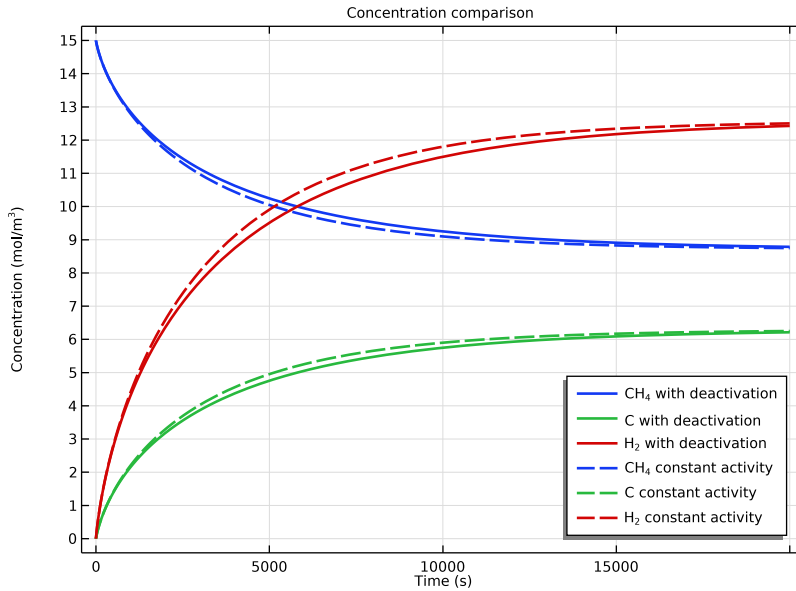
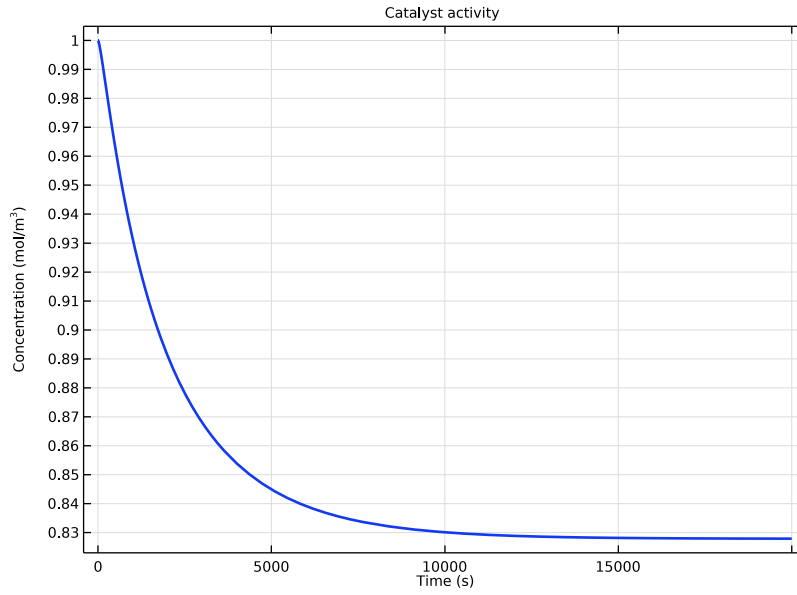


Figure 2: Concentration transients of methane decomposition over a  $Ni/Al_2O_3$  catalyst for two catalyst conditions: 1) deactivation; 2) constant activity.

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.

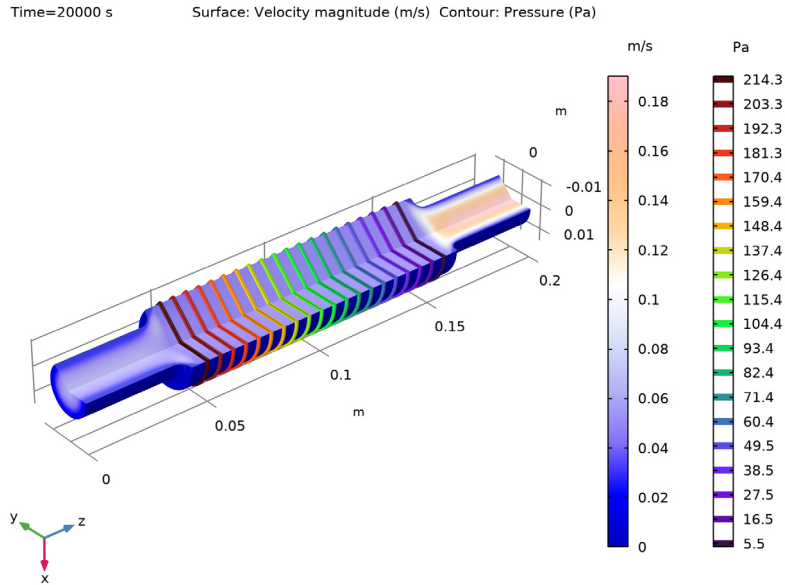


Figure 4: Velocity flow field and pressure drop within the after 20,000 s. Surface plot displays the velocity (SI unit: m/s) and contour plot the pressure (SI unit: Pa).



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).

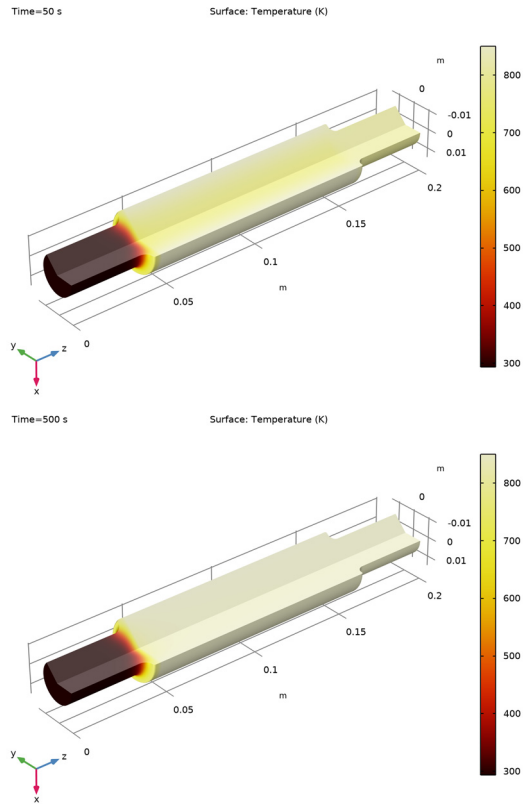


Figure 5: Temperature distribution within the reactor after 50 s and 500 s.

Figure 6 shows a comparison of the concentration distributions for methane at 400 s and 4,000 s. The concentration of methane decreases more rapidly as soon as the bed is sufficiently heated (Figure 5).

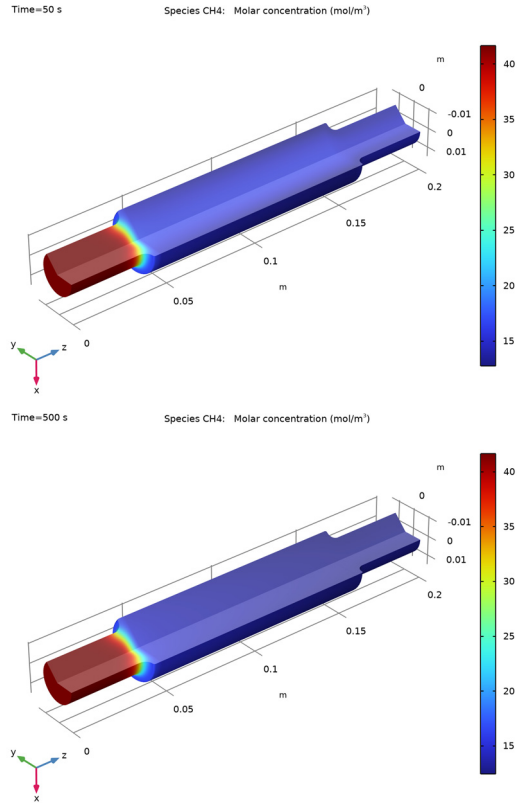


Figure 6: Concentration distribution of methane within the reactor at 400 s and 4,000 s.

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.

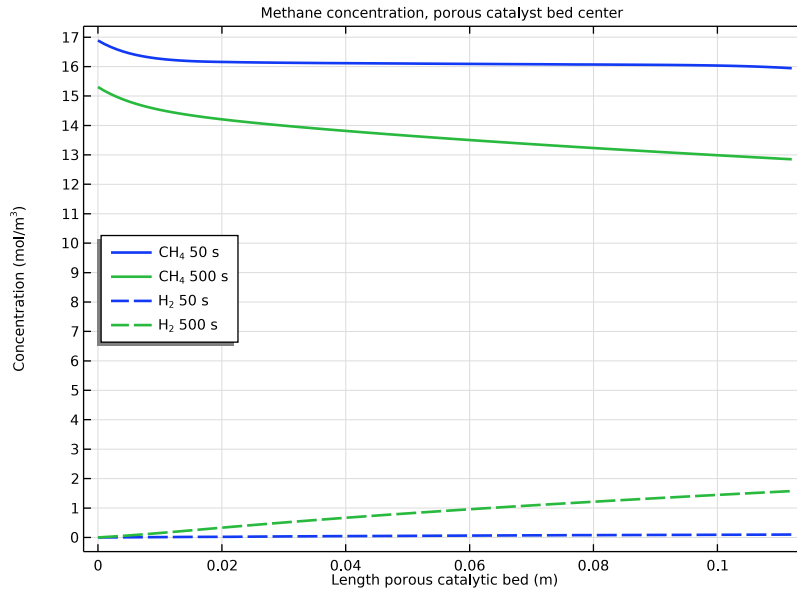


Figure 7: Concentration distribution of CH<sub>4</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> along the center of the porous catalyst bed at 50 s and 500 s.

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.

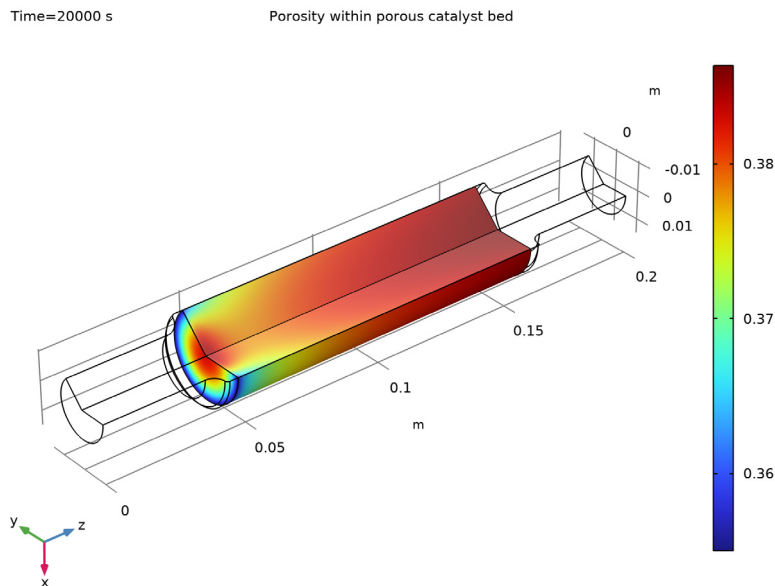


Figure 8: Porosity distribution within the porous catalyst bed at 4,000 s.

## References

1. S.G. Zavarukhin and G.G. Kuvshinov, “The kinetic model of formation of nanofibrous carbon from  $\text{CH}_4\text{-H}_2$  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.

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

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## Modeling Instructions

From the **File** menu, choose **New**.

## NEW

In the **New** window, click  **Model Wizard**.

## MODEL WIZARD

- 1 In the **Model Wizard** window, click  **OD**.
- 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*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 1 (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  $\text{CH}_4 \Rightarrow \text{C} + 2\text{H}_2$ .

### *Species 1*

Add an individual species representing the catalyst activity.


- 1 In the **Reaction Engineering** toolbar, click  **Species**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Species**, locate the **Species 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*


- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Global Definitions** click **Parameters 1**.
- 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


- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 1 (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  $1 \text{ [g/m}^3\text{]}$  catalyst.

## REACTION ENGINEERING (RE)

### 1: CH4=>C+2H2

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 1 (comp1)**>**Reaction Engineering (re)** click **1: 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  $r_j$  text field, type  $re.c_a*k*(P_{CH4}-P_{H2}^2/Kp) / (1+kH*\sqrt{P_{H2}})^2$ .

### Additional Source 1

- 1 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 <sup>3</sup> *s))
a	$-ka*re.r_1^2*re.c_C*re.c_a$

### Initial Values 1

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Initial Values 1**.
- 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> )
C	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*

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Study I** click **Step 1: 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 1 (sol1)*

1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Study I>Solver Configurations** node.

2 Right-click **Solution 1 (sol1)** and choose **Solution>Copy**.

### *With catalyst deactivation*

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Study I>Solver Configurations** click **Solution 1 - Copy 1 (sol2)**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Solution**, type With catalyst deactivation in the **Label** text field.


## RESULTS

### *Catalyst Activity (re)*

1 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 1/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 1*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Catalyst Activity (re)** node, then click **Global 1**.
- 2 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 1 (comp1)>Reaction Engineering>re.c\_a - Concentration - mol/m<sup>3</sup>**.
- 3 Click to expand the **Coloring and Style** section. In the **Width** text field, type 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*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 1 (comp1)>Reaction Engineering (re)** click **Species: a**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Species**, click to expand the **Species Concentration/Activity** section.
- 3 Select the **Constant concentration/activity** check box.

### **STUDY 1**

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

#### *Solution 1 (sol1)*

In the **Model Builder** window, under **Study 1>Solver Configurations** right-click **Solution 1 (sol1)** and choose **Solution>Copy**.

#### *Constant catalyst activity*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Study 1>Solver Configurations** click **Solution 1 - Copy 1 (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)*

- 1 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*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Concentration Comparison (re)** node, then click **Global 1**.
- 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 1/ With catalyst deactivation (sol2)**.
- 4 Locate the **Coloring and Style** section. In the **Width** text field, type 2.
- 5 Locate the **Legends** section. From the **Legends** list, choose **Manual**.
- 6 In the table, enter the following settings:

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#### **Legends**

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CH<sub>4</sub> with deactivation

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C with deactivation

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H<sub>2</sub> with deactivation

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### *Constant catalyst activity*

- 1 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 1/ 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
$\text{CH}_4$ constant activity
C constant activity
$\text{H}_2$ 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*

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 1 (comp1)>Reaction Engineering (re)** click **Species: C**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Species**, locate the **Species Concentration/Activity** section.

3 Select the **Constant concentration/activity** check box.

*Generate Space-Dependent Model 1*

1 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*

1 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<sup>3</sup>]. The k value is 300 times as that in 0D.

## GEOMETRY 1 (2DAXI)

### *Rectangle 1 (r1)*


1 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)*

1 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)*

1 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 1 (fil1)*

1 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 1 (uni1)*

- 1 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)*

- 1 In the **Geometry** toolbar, click  **Fillet**.
- 2 On the object **uni1**, 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)*

- 1 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**

- 1 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**

- 1 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 1*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 2 (comp2)>Porosity Change (dode)** click **Distributed ODE 1**.
- 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*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Initial Values 1**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Initial Values**, locate the **Initial Values** section.
- 3 In the  $por$  text field, type `por0`.

### **CHEMISTRY 1 (CHEM)**

#### *Species: CH4*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Component 2 (comp2)>Chemistry 1 (chem)** node, then click **Species: CH4**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Species**, click to expand the **Species 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 **Species 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*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Species: H2**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Species**, locate the **Species Transport Expressions** section.
- 3 From the **Thermal conductivity** list, choose **User defined**.
- 4 In the  $k$  text field, type  $kt_{H2}$ .
- 5 Locate the **Species 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*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Species: C**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Species**, locate the **Species Transport Expressions** section.
- 3 From the **Thermal conductivity** list, choose **User defined**.
- 4 In the  $k$  text field, type  $kt_C$ .
- 5 Locate the **Species 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*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Species: a**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Species**, locate the **General Parameters** section.
- 3 In the  $M$  text field, type  $M_a$ .
- 4 Locate the **Species 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)**

- 1 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*


- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Transport of Concentrated Species (tcs)** node, then click **Transport Properties 1**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Transport Properties**, locate the **Diffusion** section.
- 3 In the table, enter the following settings:

Species 1	Species 2	Diffusivity	Diffusion coefficient (m <sup>2</sup> /s)
wCH4	wH2	User defined	D_CH4H2

#### *Reaction Sources 1*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Reaction Sources 1**.
- 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*

- 1 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 1*

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

#### *Porous Medium 1*

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

#### *Fluid 1*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Fluid 1**.
- 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 **Density** section. From the  $M_{wCH4}$  list, choose **Molar mass (chem/CH4)**.
- 6 From the  $M_{wH2}$  list, choose **Molar mass (chem/H2)**.
- 7 Locate the **Diffusion** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Species 1	Species 2	Diffusivity	Diffusion coefficient (m <sup>2</sup> /s)
wCH4	wH2	User defined	D_CH4H2

#### *Porous Matrix 1*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Porous Matrix 1**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Porous Matrix**, locate the **Matrix Properties** section.
- 3 In the  $\epsilon_p$  text field, type por.

### **HEAT TRANSFER IN POROUS MEDIA 1 (HT)**

#### *Fluid 1*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Component 2 (comp2)**> **Heat Transfer in Porous Media 1 (ht)**>**Porous Medium 1** node, then click **Fluid 1**.
- 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 1*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Porous Matrix 1**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Porous Matrix**, locate the **Matrix Properties** section.
- 3 From the  $\epsilon_p$  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.
- 6 Locate the **Thermodynamics, Porous Matrix** section. From the  $\rho_s$  list, choose **User defined**. In the associated text field, type rho\_cat.
- 7 From the  $C_{p,s}$  list, choose **User defined**. In the associated text field, type Cp\_cat.

#### *Heat Source 1*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 2 (comp2)**> **Heat Transfer in Porous Media 1 (ht)** click **Heat Source 1**.
- 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 1*

- 1 In the **Physics** toolbar, click  **Boundaries** and choose **Temperature**.
- 2 Select Boundary 2 only.


### *Outflow 1*

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

### *Temperature 2*

- 1 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 1*

- 1 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  $\mathbf{u}$  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 1 (SPF)**

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 2 (comp2)** click **Laminar Flow 1 (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*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Laminar Flow 1 (spf)** node, then click **Fluid Properties 1**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Fluid Properties**, locate the **Fluid Properties** section.
- 3 From the  $\rho$  list, choose **Density (chem)**.

### *Porous Medium 1*

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


### *Fluid 1*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Porous Medium 1** node, then click **Fluid 1**.
- 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 1*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Porous Matrix 1**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Porous Matrix**, locate the **Matrix Properties** section.
- 3 From the  $\epsilon_p$  list, choose **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 1*

- 1 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 1*

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

### *Mass Source 1*

- 1 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  $Q_m$  text field, type (chem.Rw\_CH4+chem.Rw\_H2)\*por.



## **STUDY 2**

### *Step 1: Stationary*

- 1 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.
- 3 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*

- 1 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*



- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Results** click **Temperature, 3D (ht1)**.
- 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*

- 1 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 From the **Color table** list, choose **ThermalDark**.
- 4 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*

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

#### *Concentration, CH<sub>4</sub>, 3D (tcs)*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Concentration, CH<sub>4</sub>, 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, CH<sub>4</sub>, 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, CH<sub>4</sub>, 3D (tcs)** toolbar, click  **Plot**.
- 9 Click the  **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

#### *Velocity, 3D (spfl)*

- 1 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 1*

- 1 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 1>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 From the **Color table** list, choose **Spectrum**.


#### *Surface*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Surface**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Surface**, locate the **Coloring and Style** section.
- 3 From the **Color table** list, choose **Twilight**.
- 4 From the **Color table transformation** list, choose **Reverse**.


### *Velocity, 3D (spf1)*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Velocity, 3D (spf1)**.
- 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 (spf1)** toolbar, click  **Plot**.
- 5 Click the  **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

### *Cut Line 3D 1*

- 1 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 1**, 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*


- 1 In the **Results** toolbar, click  **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 1**.
- 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. Select the **x-axis label** check box.
- 9 In the associated text field, type Length porous catalytic bed (m).
- 10 Select the **y-axis label** check box.
- 11 In the associated text field, type Concentration (mol/m<sup>3</sup>).
- 12 Locate the **Legend** section. From the **Position** list, choose **Middle left**.

### *Line Graph 1*



- 1 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. In the **Width** text field, type 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  $CH_4 \text{ eval}(t, s)$ .

#### *Line Graph 2*

- 1 Right-click **Line Graph 1** 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  $H_2 \text{ eval}(t, s)$ .
- 6 In the **Concentration CH4, Porous Catalyst Bed Center** toolbar, click  **Plot**.

#### *Porosity Distribution*

- 1 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  **Plot**.
- 6 Click the  **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

Delete the .

For future use of **Study 1**, turn off the interfaces associated with the space-dependent model.

## **STUDY 1**

### *Step 1: Time Dependent*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Study 1** click **Step 1: Time Dependent**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Time Dependent**, locate the **Physics and Variables Selection** section.

**3** 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**.

