

NMR Studies of Hydrogen Diffusion in $\text{LaNi}_{5.0}\text{H}_{6.0}$ and $\text{LaNi}_{4.8}\text{Sn}_{0.2}\text{H}_{5.8}$

R. C. Bowman, Jr.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, CA 91109

U. Kaess and G. Majer

Max-Planck-Institut für Metallforschung
70569 Stuttgart, Germany

Diffusion measurements of hydrogen in $\text{LaNi}_{5.0}\text{H}_{6.0}$ and $\text{LaNi}_{4.8}\text{Sn}_{0.2}\text{H}_{5.8}$ were made between 260 K and 360 K using the APFG-NMR technique. The diffusivity of hydrogen in $\text{LaNi}_{4.8}\text{Sn}_{0.2}\text{H}_{5.8}$ is characterized by a higher mobility and a lower activation enthalpy (H_a) than observed in $\text{LaNi}_{5.0}\text{H}_{6.0}$. The diffusivities at room temperature, $D(300\text{ K})$, are $9.2 \times 10^{-13} \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ and $3.8 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ for $\text{LaNi}_{4.8}\text{Sn}_{0.2}\text{H}_{5.8}$ and $\text{LaNi}_{5.0}\text{H}_{6.0}$, respectively. Arrhenius fits to the diffusivities yielded activation enthalpies of $H_a = 0.32 \text{ eV}$ for $\text{LaNi}_{5.0}\text{H}_{6.0}$ and $H_a = 0.22 \text{ eV}$ for $\text{LaNi}_{4.8}\text{Sn}_{0.2}\text{H}_{5.8}$. Proton spin-lattice relaxation rates were also measured on the same samples in the temperature range between 100 K and 350 K. The D values and proton relaxation data are shown to be consistent with a diffusion mechanism involving at least two stages of hydrogen motion.

Work partially supported by D.O.E. Grant DE-FG03-94ER 14493. Caltech operates JPL under contract with NASA. Travel support provided by NATO Grant 910179.