

Pyrolysis Characteristics and Determination of Kinetic and Thermodynamic Parameters of Raw and Torrefied Chinese Fir

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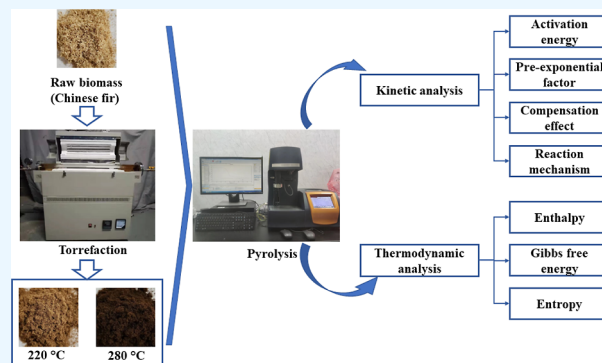
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ABSTRACT: Torrefaction influences the structural and physicochemical properties of biomass, thus further altering its thermal degradation behavior. In this study, the pyrolysis characteristics, reaction kinetics, and thermodynamic parameters of raw and torrefied Chinese fir (CF) were investigated. The torrefaction was conducted at 220 °C (mild) and 280 °C (severe), the pyrolysis was performed from ambient temperature to 600 °C, and four different heating rates (i.e., 5, 15, 25, and 35 °C/min) were adopted. The activation energy for pyrolysis was estimated by adopting three isoconversional methods. The master-plot method was employed to analyze the reaction mechanism. Furthermore, thermodynamic parameters, i.e., the enthalpy change (ΔH), Gibbs free energy change (ΔG), and entropy change (ΔS), were calculated. The average activation energy increased with the torrefaction temperature, whose values estimated by using different methods ranged from 88.57 to 97.70, from 121.04 to 126.35, and from 167.51 to 179.74 kJ/mol for raw, mildly, and severely torrefied CF samples, respectively. A compensation effect between the activation energy and pre-exponential factor was observed for all samples. The degradation process was characterized as endothermic, involving the formation of activated complexes and requiring extra energy for torrefied samples.



1. INTRODUCTION

Population explosions and increased energy consumption have raised a range of environmental concerns. Thus, exploring clean alternative energy sources has gained much interest in recent years. Biomass is considered a carbon-neutral energy source because the carbon released during its energy utilization is almost offset by the carbon absorbed during its growth. Consequently, its wide use can help reduce pollution emissions (e.g., CO₂ and SO_x).^{1–3} Among different biomass types, lignocellulosic biomass, generally regarded as woody biomass, contains a large quantity of carbon and possesses the potential to generate useful energy products in solid, liquid, and gaseous forms. It mainly consists of three major components, i.e., hemicellulose, cellulose, and lignin. Hemicellulose is a large family of polysaccharides and normally undergoes significant thermal degradation in the temperature range of 200–350 °C.⁴ Cellulose is a glucose polymer which experiences the initial and major degradations in the temperature ranges of around 200–250 and 300–400 °C, respectively. Moreover, lignin is an aromatic polymer and decomposes over a wide temperature range.^{5,6}

The thermochemical conversion of biomass to fuel depends on many factors, such as biomass characteristics and process parameters. Also, the conversion efficiency might decrease due to some inherent shortcomings of raw biomass, such as high moisture content and hygroscopicity and low

energy density. Over the years, several pretreatment processes have been proposed, which can alter the biomass properties and make it more suitable for conversion. Torrefaction is one such pretreatment process that has been utilized to enhance the fuel properties of biomass.^{7,8} During torrefaction, raw biomass is generally heated in the range of 200–350 °C for a certain time period and undergoes physical and chemical changes, e.g., the decomposition of hemicellulose and depolymerization or partial degradation of cellulose and lignin.^{9–11} Consequently, the moisture and some solid contents are lost, and the solid products can be used as fuel, soil amendment, carbon sequestration, and water filtration.¹² Doddapaneni et al. (2016)¹³ analyzed the impact of torrefaction on the pyrolysis of Eucalyptus clones. They revealed that the char content after pyrolysis increased with the torrefaction temperature. Moreover, an enhancement in the thermal stability of the torrefied biomass was also observed. Cao et al. (2021)¹⁴ investigated the effect of

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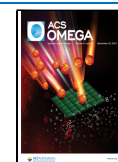


Table 1. Expressions of Various Solid-State Reaction Models and Their $g(\alpha)$ and $f(\alpha)$

notation	mechanism	integral form, $g(\alpha)$	differential form, $f(\alpha)$
Nucleation Models			
P3	power law	$\alpha^{(1/3)}$	$3\alpha^{(2/3)}$
P4	power law	$\alpha^{(1/4)}$	$4\alpha^{(3/4)}$
A3	Avrami-Erofeev	$[-\ln(1 - \alpha)]^{(1/3)}$	$3(1 - \alpha)[- \ln(1 - \alpha)]^{(2/3)}$
Reaction Order Models			
F1	$n = 1$	$-\ln(1 - \alpha)$	$(1 - \alpha)$
Geometrical Contraction Models			
R1	one dimension	α	1
R2	contracting cylinder	$1 - (1 - \alpha)^{(1/2)}$	$2(1 - \alpha)^{(1/2)}$
Diffusion Models			
D2	two-dimensional diffusion	$(1 - \alpha)\ln(1 - \alpha) + \alpha$	$[-\ln(1 - \alpha)]^{-1}$
D3	three-dimensional diffusion (Jander equation)	$(1 - (1 - \alpha)^{1/3})^2$	$[3(1 - \alpha)^{(2/3)}]/[2(1 - (1 - \alpha)^{(1/3)})]$
D4	three-dimensional diffusion (Ginstling equation)	$1 - (2/3)\alpha - (1 - \alpha)^{(2/3)}$	$3/[2((1 - \alpha)^{(-1/3)} - 1)]$

torrefaction temperature on cellulose pyrolysis characteristics. They reported that the highest torrefaction temperature (i.e., 290 °C) yielded the maximum oxygen removal, highest carbonization, and higher heating values (HHVs). They further found that torrefaction pretreatment not only influenced the physical and chemical properties of biomass but also altered the product yield during pyrolysis.

To convert biomass into energy, various thermochemical processes have been developed. Of these, pyrolysis can convert biomass into various energy products, e.g., bio-char, bio-oil, and biogas.¹⁵ Patidar et al. (2022)¹⁶ studied the pyrolysis of different biomasses and analyzed their potential applications for bioenergy production. During pyrolysis, the kinetic and thermodynamic analyses are crucial for comprehending the thermal degradation behavior as well as process design and optimization.^{17,18} Singh et al. (2021)¹⁹ gave some insights into the kinetic and thermodynamic behaviors of the pyrolysis of rice straw. Ahmad et al. (2021)²⁰ evaluated the kinetic and thermodynamic parameters of maple leaf waste using isoconversional methods. They found that the values of Gibbs free energy change ranged from 216 to 325 kJ/mol. Other works were also dedicated to a better understanding of the biomass pyrolysis process.^{21,22} However, few studies focus on the pyrolysis behaviors, reaction mechanisms, and thermodynamic analysis of torrefied biomass.²³

Therefore, in this work, a comprehensive investigation of physicochemical properties and pyrolysis characteristics of raw and torrefied Chinese fir (CF) was performed. Note that CF is a coniferous evergreen timber tree of the cypress family and is also an important commercial timber species in China.²⁴ To explore the effect of torrefaction on pyrolysis, two distinct torrefaction temperatures (i.e., 220 and 280 °C) and four different pyrolysis heating rates (i.e., 5, 15, 25, and 35 °C/min) were selected. The activation energy for pyrolysis was estimated by adopting three different isoconversional methods, i.e., the Starink, Boswell, and Friedman methods. The master-plot method was employed to analyze the reaction mechanism followed by raw and torrefied biomass samples. In addition, three thermodynamic parameters, i.e., the enthalpy change (ΔH), Gibbs free energy change (ΔG), and entropy change (ΔS), were also calculated. All these results are beneficial to deeply understanding the pyrolysis process of raw and torrefied CF.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Sample. To conduct torrefaction and pyrolysis experiments, CF was used as the biomass fuel. It was

Table 2. Properties of Raw and Torrefied Biomass Samples

parameters	raw CF	CF220	CF280
Proximate Analysis ^a , wt (%)			
M^b	8.36 ± 0.21	3.36 ± 0.21	1.97 ± 0.42
VM ^c	76.30 ± 0.75	51.58 ± 0.67	28.83 ± 0.85
FC ^{d,e}	14.42	42.01	64.89
ash	0.92 ± 0.01	3.05 ± 0.25	4.31 ± 0.24
Ultimate Analysis ^f , wt (%)			
C	52.38 ± 0.25	56.32 ± 0.10	63.25 ± 0.30
H	6.95 ± 0.07	6.29 ± 0.08	5.83 ± 0.03
N	0.33 ± 0.02	0.52 ± 0.03	0.57 ± 0.03
S	0.24 ± 0.03	0.17 ± 0.01	0.18 ± 0.09
O ^e	40.10	36.70	30.17
HHV (MJ/kg)	21.37 ± 0.15	22.97 ± 0.08	26.13 ± 0.14

^aAs-received basis. ^b M denotes moisture. ^cVM is volatile matter. ^dFC represents fixed carbon. ^eCalculated by difference. ^fDry and ash-free basis.

obtained from Tianxu Energy, located in Guangzhou, China. The biomass was dried, ground, sieved, and finally had an average particle size of around 98 μm . Then, the powder samples were stored in an airtight container to avoid moisture absorption. The ultimate analyses were conducted using CHN-2000 and SE-IRSII sulfate analyzers. The proximate analyses were carried out according to the experimental procedures of Qin and Thunman.²⁵ Moreover, the HHVs were estimated by using the empirical correlation proposed by Friedl et al. (2005).²⁶

2.2. Experimental Procedures. **2.2.1. Torrefaction.** For torrefaction, a horizontal quartz tube furnace (SG-GL1100K-100) manufactured by Zhuochi Instrument Co., Ltd. (Hangzhou, China) was used. To achieve an inert atmosphere inside the furnace, the nitrogen was purged continuously for 30 min prior to each experiment. Then, approximately 3 g of biomass sample was kept in a quartz boat and placed in the middle of the tube. The reactor temperature was first set to 30 °C, which was further increased to the torrefaction temperature (e.g., 220 or 280 °C) at a heating rate of 10 °C/min. After reaching the specified temperature, it was maintained for 40 min. The volatiles released during torrefaction were blown out of the

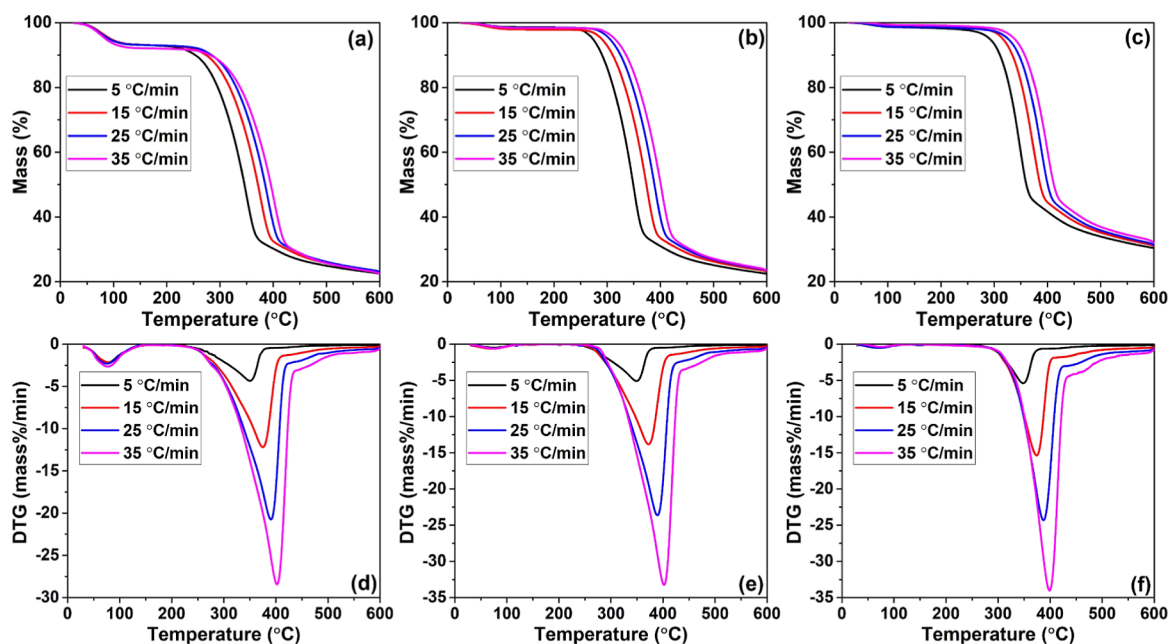


Figure 1. Thermogravimetric (TG) and differential thermogravimetric (DTG) curves for pyrolysis of (a,d) raw CF, (b,e) CF220, and (c,f) CF280 samples at different pyrolysis heating rates.

tube by nitrogen. Subsequently, the quartz boat was removed from the furnace and allowed to cool down to room temperature. Note that the quartz tube was cleaned before starting a new experiment. To differentiate torrefied samples, they were named with the first two letters representing the biomass type and the last three digits indicating the torrefaction temperature. For example, CF220 represents the sample of Chinese fir torrefied at 220 °C.

2.2.2. Pyrolysis. Pyrolysis experiments were performed in a thermogravimetric analyzer (TG55, TA instruments). Specifically, approximately 10 mg of sample was placed in the furnace, and the temperature was first raised from room temperature to 150 °C at a heating rate of 20 °C/min. Then, to explore the effect of heating rate, the temperature is further raised from 150 to 600 °C by four different heating rates (i.e., 5, 15, 25, and 35 °C/min). Furthermore, to maintain an inert atmosphere during pyrolysis, nitrogen was purged with a flow rate of 40 mL/min.

2.3. Kinetic Parameters. Different biomass samples have different compositions and physical properties, resulting in distinct pyrolysis characteristics. To conduct pyrolysis kinetic analysis, three methods, i.e., the Starink, Boswell, and Friedman methods,^{27–29} were employed to evaluate the activation energy E_α .

The pyrolytic degradation of biomass can be treated as a single-step reaction, and the conversion fraction α is defined as follows

$$\alpha = \frac{M_0 - M}{M_0 - M_f} \quad (1)$$

where M_0 , M , and M_f are the initial, instantaneous, and final masses, respectively. Consequently, the reaction rate is expressed as^{30,31}

$$\frac{d\alpha}{dt} = A \exp\left(\frac{-E_\alpha}{RT}\right) f(\alpha) \quad (2)$$

where t , T , A , R , and f are the time, temperature, pre-exponential factor, universal gas constant, and kinetic model, respectively. The integral form of eq 2 can be written as

$$g(\alpha) = \int_0^\alpha \frac{d\alpha}{f(\alpha)} = \frac{A}{\beta} \int_{T_0}^T \exp\left(\frac{-E_\alpha}{RT}\right) dT \quad (3)$$

where $\beta = dT/dt$ is the heating rate.

The equations for the Starink, Boswell, and Friedman methods are shown by eqs 4–6, respectively.^{22,32,33}

$$\ln\left[\frac{\beta}{T^{1.92}}\right] = C - 1.0008 \frac{E_\alpha}{RT} \quad (4)$$

$$\ln\left[\frac{\beta}{T}\right] = -\frac{E_\alpha}{RT} + C \quad (5)$$

$$\ln\left[\frac{d\alpha}{dt}\right] = \ln[Af(\alpha)] - \frac{E_\alpha}{RT} \quad (6)$$

For each method, plot the left-hand side of its equation versus $1/T$. As a result, E_α can be evaluated from the slope of the fitted line. Furthermore, A is calculated by using eq 7.^{34,35}

$$A = \frac{\beta E_\alpha \exp\left(\frac{E_\alpha}{RT_m}\right)}{RT_m^2} \quad (7)$$

where T_m is the temperature at the peak of the major thermal degradation of the biomass sample. Note that $\beta = 35$ °C/min was selected to calculate A . Then, the compensation effect between E_α and A was also analyzed.

2.4. Determination of the Reaction Model. To understand the inherent reaction mechanism of biomass pyrolysis, the reaction model was determined using the master-plot method.³⁶ It was analyzed using the following equation³⁷

Table 3. Temperatures and Mass Fractions at the Start, Peak, and End of the Major Thermal Degradation of Raw and Torrefied CF Samples

species	heating rate (°C/min)	T_a (°C)	T_m (°C)	T_c (°C)	M_a (%)	M_m (%)	M_c (%)
raw CF	5	195.97	350.38	385.41	92.77	46.09	31.53
	15	198.85	374.90	412.96	92.85	46.99	31.15
	25	212.90	390.47	420.45	92.84	45.40	31.37
	35	227.11	402.12	443.56	91.75	44.74	29.37
CF220	5	218.39	349.32	385.29	98.48	49.94	32.48
	15	226.27	372.41	413.94	97.88	49.90	32.00
	25	246.44	389.20	430.25	98.34	49.83	31.68
	35	262.06	402.13	440.42	98.25	48.76	31.51
CF280	5	227.68	348.45	385.75	98.01	61.66	43.40
	15	255.36	373.87	406.97	98.51	61.25	43.60
	25	267.91	387.07	431.20	98.10	62.10	42.06
	35	277.92	398.83	438.48	98.59	61.53	41.65

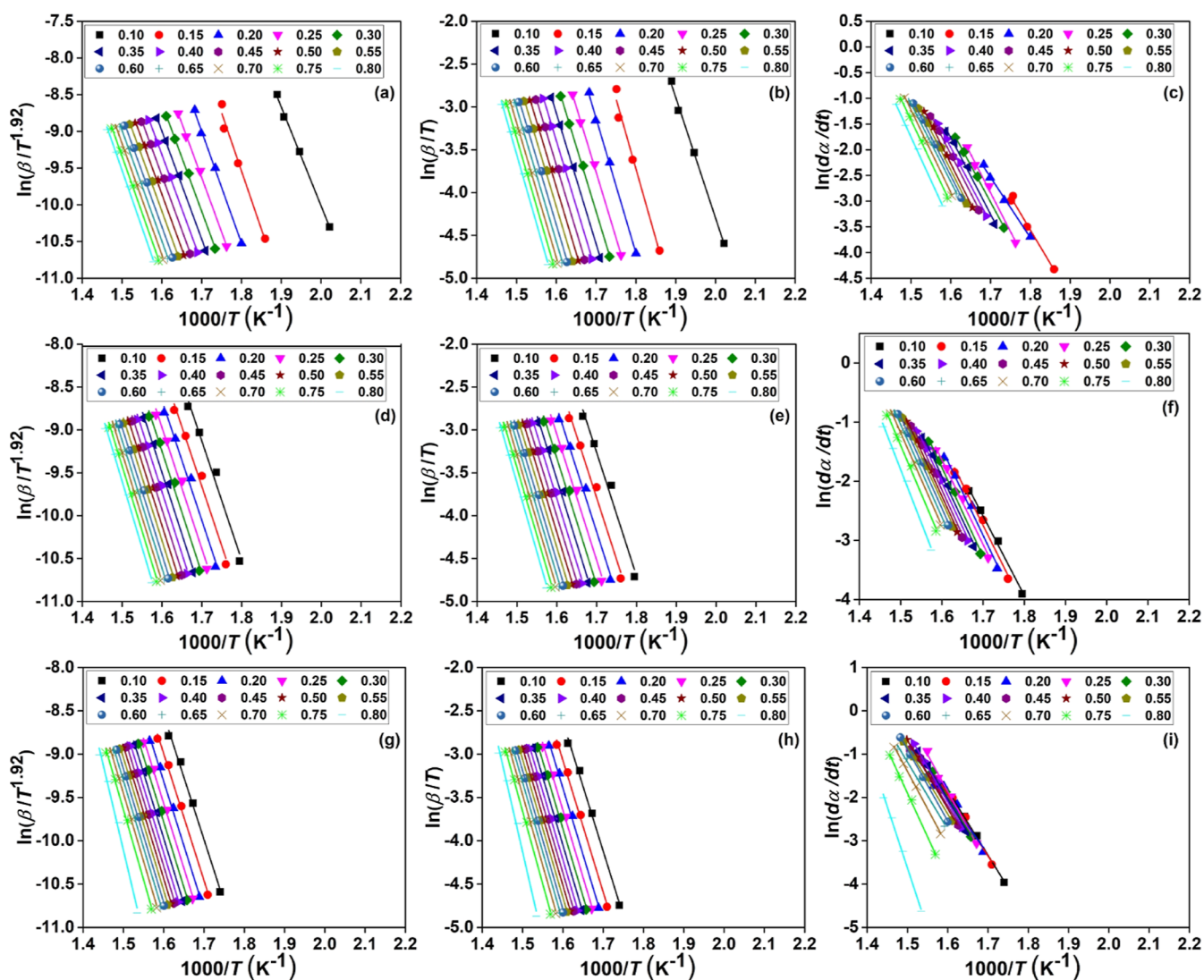


Figure 2. Linear fitted plots for determining the activation energies of (a–c) raw CF, (d–f) CF220, and (g–i) CF280 samples by using Starink (a,d,g), Boswell (b,e,h), and Friedman (c,f,i) methods.

$$\frac{f(\alpha)g(\alpha)}{f(\alpha)_{0.5}g(\alpha)_{0.5}} = \left(\frac{T}{T_{0.5}} \right)^2 \left\{ \left(\frac{d\alpha}{dt} \right) \left(\frac{d\alpha}{dt} \right)_{0.5} \right\} \quad (8)$$

where the subscript 0.5 denotes “at $\alpha = 0.5$ ”.

Table 1 presents the expressions of various solid-state reaction models and their $g(\alpha)$ and $f(\alpha)$.^{20,38,39} By using the $f(\alpha)$ and $g(\alpha)$ of each model, the theoretical curves can be obtained by plotting the left-hand side of eq 8 versus α . Meanwhile, by using the TGA data, the experimental curves are acquired by plotting the right-hand side of eq 8 versus α .

Then, a suitable reaction model could be selected for biomass pyrolysis by comparing the experimental and theoretical curves.

2.5. Thermodynamic Parameters. In this work, the thermodynamic parameters ΔH , ΔG , and ΔS were calculated using the following equations.⁴⁰

$$\Delta H = E_{\alpha} - RT \quad (9)$$

$$\Delta G = E_{\alpha} + RT_m \ln\left(\frac{K_B T_m}{hA}\right) \quad (10)$$

$$\Delta S = \frac{\Delta H - \Delta G}{T_m} \quad (11)$$

where K_B and h are the Boltzmann and Planck constants, respectively. Moreover, the T_m and $T(\alpha)$ at the heating rate of 35 °C/min were adopted to obtain these thermodynamic parameters. Note that biomass pyrolysis involves a large number of complex reactions, and these thermodynamic parameters estimated here are only used for providing a supplemental means of understanding the biomass pyrolysis process.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Sample Properties. Table 2 shows the proximate and ultimate analyses, as well as the HHV of raw and torrefied CF samples. With increasing torrefaction severity, the moisture and volatile matter contents decreased, while the fixed carbon and ash contents increased. The torrefaction temperature also influences the ultimate analyses of the samples, and a higher torrefaction temperature leads to higher carbon and lower oxygen contents.⁴¹ Specifically, compared to the raw sample, the carbon content of the CF280 sample rose from 52.38 to 63.25%. The release of moisture and carbon dioxide causes dehydroxylation and decarboxylation reactions, probably resulting in a reduction of oxygen content.¹⁵ Meanwhile, the release of oxygen can also occur in the form of CO and other oxygen-containing gases. Moreover, the hydrogen content seemed to slightly decrease, while the nitrogen content correspondingly increased with increasing the torrefaction temperature. In addition, the HHV increased with the torrefaction temperature, and a high value of 26.13 MJ/kg was observed for the CF280 sample.

3.2. Thermogravimetric Analysis. To investigate the thermal degradation behaviors of raw and torrefied CF samples, pyrolysis experiments were conducted at four different heating rates (i.e., 5, 15, 25, and 35 °C/min). Figure 1 shows the thermogravimetric (TG) and differential thermogravimetric (DTG) curves for pyrolysis of raw CF, CF220, and CF280 samples at different heating rates. As the pyrolysis heating rate increased, the TG and DTG curves shifted to the right, meaning that the temperature at which the major thermal degradation started shifted toward a higher temperature. In general, the pyrolysis process can be roughly classified into three subprocesses, i.e., moisture evaporation (<approximately 130 °C), major thermal degradation (approximately 130–450 °C), and carbonization (>approximately 450 °C).⁴² During moisture removal, a small mass loss is observed because the samples have a low moisture content. During the second subprocess, a sharp drop in mass is seen, mostly due to the degradation of hemicellulose and cellulose and also depolymerization of lignin.^{43,44} During carbonization, the mass appears to smoothly decline until the

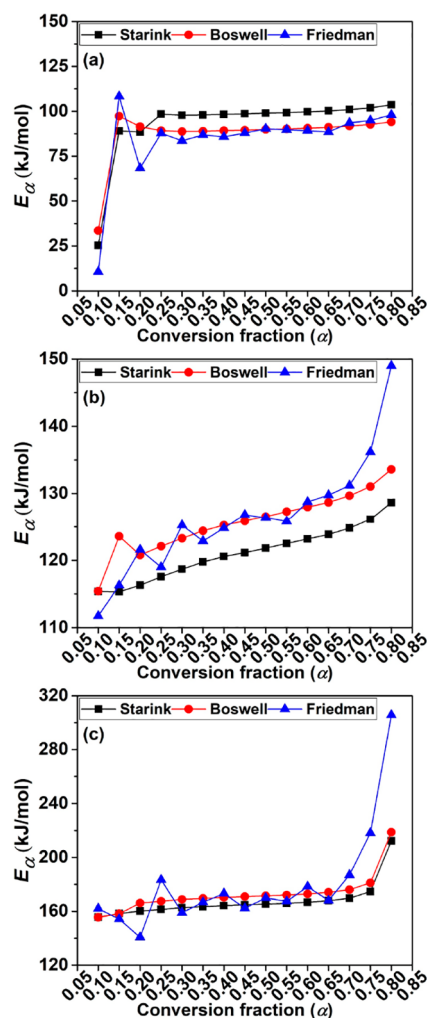


Figure 3. Variation of activation energies with conversion fraction for (a) raw CF, (b) CF220, and (c) CF280 samples by employing the Starink, Boswell, and Friedman methods.

final pyrolysis temperature, and the mass loss corresponds to the decomposition of lignin and a few carbonaceous compounds present in tar and char.⁴⁵

Table 3 presents the temperatures and mass fractions at the start, peak, and end of the major thermal degradation of raw and torrefied CF samples. Specifically, T_a , T_m , and T_c denote the temperatures, while M_a , M_m , and M_c represent the mass fractions at the start, peak, and end of the major thermal degradation, respectively. For each sample, the values of T_a , T_m , and T_c increased with the heating rate. As the torrefaction temperature increased, the value of T_a rose, while the values of T_m and T_c did not change significantly. In general, as the torrefaction severity increases, more volatiles are released during torrefaction; thus, the thermal stability of torrefied samples is enhanced, which leads to a higher T_a .^{10,46} In addition, M_a , M_m , and M_c seemed to be nearly independent of the heating rate. After mild torrefaction, the value of M_a increased, but it negligibly varied when the torrefaction temperature was further raised to 280 °C. In contrast, M_m and M_c showed a consistent increase with the torrefaction temperature, although such an increasing trend was more obvious when the torrefaction temperature rose from 220 to 280 °C.

Table 4. Activation Energies, Coefficient of Determination, and Pre-exponential Factors of Raw and Torrefied CF Samples Calculated by Using the Starink, Boswell, and Friedman Methods

species	method	α	raw			CF220			CF280			
			E_a (kJ/mol)	R^2	A (s^{-1})	E_a (kJ/mol)	R^2	A (s^{-1})	E_a (kJ/mol)	R^2	A (s^{-1})	
Starink		0.10	92.30	0.97540	1.18×10^7	115.35	0.97179	8.92×10^8	155.65	0.99256	1.83×10^{12}	
		0.15	89.03	0.98825	6.34×10^6	115.33	0.97937	8.89×10^8	158.33	0.99430	3.00×10^{12}	
		0.20	88.44	0.99725	5.66×10^6	116.30	0.98238	1.07×10^9	160.15	0.99450	4.20×10^{12}	
		0.25	98.45	0.99872	3.75×10^7	117.56	0.98412	1.35×10^9	161.36	0.99438	5.25×10^{12}	
		0.30	97.81	0.99840	3.32×10^7	118.68	0.98542	1.66×10^9	162.68	0.99474	6.72×10^{12}	
		0.35	97.97	0.99794	3.43×10^7	119.74	0.98655	2.03×10^9	163.43	0.99471	7.71×10^{12}	
		0.40	98.32	0.99753	3.66×10^7	120.56	0.98733	2.36×10^9	164.12	0.99478	8.77×10^{12}	
		0.45	98.59	0.99706	3.85×10^7	121.14	0.98779	2.63×10^9	164.80	0.99493	9.93×10^{12}	
		0.50	98.97	0.99683	4.14×10^7	121.80	0.98817	2.97×10^9	165.26	0.99502	1.08×10^{13}	
		0.55	99.25	0.99652	4.37×10^7	122.50	0.98885	3.38×10^9	165.85	0.99511	1.21×10^{13}	
		0.60	99.71	0.99619	4.75×10^7	123.17	0.98914	3.83×10^9	166.63	0.99518	1.39×10^{13}	
		0.65	100.22	0.99580	5.24×10^7	123.84	0.98936	4.35×10^9	167.83	0.99528	1.74×10^{13}	
		0.70	100.97	0.99571	6.03×10^7	124.79	0.98944	5.18×10^9	169.67	0.99517	2.45×10^{13}	
		0.75	101.93	0.99556	7.22×10^7	126.13	0.98954	6.65×10^9	174.68	0.99456	6.18×10^{13}	
		0.80	103.60	0.99557	9.89×10^7	128.65	0.98898	1.06×10^{10}	212.26	0.98436	6.26×10^{16}	
	average			97.70		4.14×10^7	121.04		3.32×10^9	167.51		4.19×10^{15}
	Boswell		0.10	95.27	0.98686	2.06×10^7	115.43	0.97179	9.05×10^8	155.53	0.99256	1.78×10^{12}
		0.15	97.32	0.98825	3.03×10^7	123.56	0.97937	4.12×10^9	158.20	0.99430	2.93×10^{12}	
		0.20	91.44	0.99743	9.99×10^6	120.79	0.98380	2.46×10^9	166.13	0.99496	1.27×10^{13}	
		0.25	89.21	0.99882	6.56×10^6	122.10	0.98542	3.14×10^9	167.40	0.99486	1.61×10^{13}	
		0.30	88.71	0.99855	5.96×10^6	123.28	0.98661	3.91×10^9	168.77	0.99518	2.07×10^{13}	
		0.35	88.90	0.99813	6.19×10^6	124.38	0.98766	4.81×10^9	169.56	0.99516	2.40×10^{13}	
		0.40	89.25	0.99775	6.60×10^6	125.25	0.98839	5.64×10^9	170.30	0.99523	2.75×10^{13}	
		0.45	89.52	0.99733	6.95×10^6	125.86	0.98881	6.33×10^9	171.01	0.99537	3.13×10^{13}	
		0.50	89.88	0.99712	7.45×10^6	126.56	0.98917	7.20×10^9	171.50	0.99545	3.43×10^{13}	
		0.55	90.17	0.99683	7.86×10^6	127.29	0.98979	8.25×10^9	172.13	0.99553	3.85×10^{13}	
		0.60	90.59	0.99653	8.51×10^6	127.99	0.99006	9.40×10^9	172.94	0.99559	4.47×10^{13}	
		0.65	91.07	0.99617	9.32×10^6	128.69	0.99026	1.07×10^{10}	174.18	0.99569	5.63×10^{13}	
		0.70	91.75	0.99609	1.06×10^7	129.67	0.99033	1.28×10^{10}	176.05	0.99558	7.95×10^{13}	
		0.75	92.61	0.99595	1.25×10^7	131.03	0.99042	1.65×10^{10}	181.11	0.99502	2.02×10^{14}	
		0.80	94.10	0.99595	1.65×10^7	133.59	0.98989	2.66×10^{10}	218.77	0.98537	2.07×10^{17}	
average				91.32		1.11×10^7	125.70		8.18×10^9	172.91		1.38×10^{16}
Friedman			0.10	75.83	0.97747	5.14×10^5	111.74	0.99243	4.54×10^8	162.00	0.99597	5.92×10^{12}
		0.15	108.34	0.98211	2.40×10^8	116.28	0.98494	1.06×10^9	154.23	0.97085	1.40×10^{12}	
		0.20	68.36	0.99409	1.22×10^5	121.58	0.98488	2.85×10^9	140.76	0.91593	1.15×10^{11}	
		0.25	87.76	0.99340	4.98×10^6	118.98	0.98882	1.76×10^9	183.37	0.98920	3.07×10^{14}	
		0.30	83.57	0.99856	2.25×10^6	125.21	0.99042	5.60×10^9	158.93	0.98893	3.35×10^{12}	
		0.35	86.89	0.98606	4.23×10^6	122.86	0.98838	3.62×10^9	166.71	0.99532	1.41×10^{13}	
		0.40	85.77	0.99634	3.42×10^6	124.79	0.99011	5.19×10^9	173.24	0.99866	4.73×10^{13}	
		0.45	87.91	0.99576	5.12×10^6	126.83	0.98744	7.58×10^9	162.23	0.97965	6.17×10^{12}	
		0.50	90.27	0.99823	8.01×10^6	126.34	0.99052	6.92×10^9	169.97	0.99562	2.59×10^{13}	
		0.55	89.72	0.99221	7.22×10^6	125.80	0.99222	6.25×10^9	167.38	0.99845	1.60×10^{13}	
		0.60	89.19	0.99660	6.53×10^6	128.74	0.99023	1.08×10^{10}	178.33	0.99978	1.21×10^{14}	
		0.65	88.51	0.99556	5.74×10^6	129.76	0.98772	1.31×10^{10}	168.01	0.97977	1.80×10^{13}	
		0.70	93.56	0.99692	1.49×10^7	131.19	0.99003	1.70×10^{10}	187.03	0.99833	6.03×10^{14}	
		0.75	94.86	0.99401	1.91×10^7	136.17	0.99222	4.29×10^{10}	218.13	0.99739	1.84×10^{17}	
		0.80	98.05	0.99649	3.48×10^7	148.99	0.99207	4.61×10^{11}	305.73	0.99312	1.66×10^{24}	
	average			88.57		2.38×10^7	126.35		3.91×10^{10}	179.74		1.11×10^{23}

3.3. Kinetic Parameters. Figure 2 depicts the linear fitted plots for determining the activation energies of raw CF, CF220, and CF280 samples by using the Starink, Boswell, and Friedman methods. For each sample and method, the fitted lines for different α values were mostly parallel to each other, except for some at high α . This indicated that the degradation process broadly obeyed a similar reaction model. Moreover, the lines obtained using the Starink and Boswell methods demonstrated a higher degree of parallelism than

those derived from the Friedman method. In addition, the gap between the lines for $0.10 \leq \alpha \leq 0.30$ was larger than that between the lines for $0.40 \leq \alpha \leq 0.70$, and such a difference was more noticeable for the Starink and Boswell methods. This suggested that high energy was required to break down the chemical bonds at the starting stage.⁴⁷ Furthermore, the gap between the lines generally decreased after torrefaction, and the lines seemed to be closely packed for the CF280 sample.

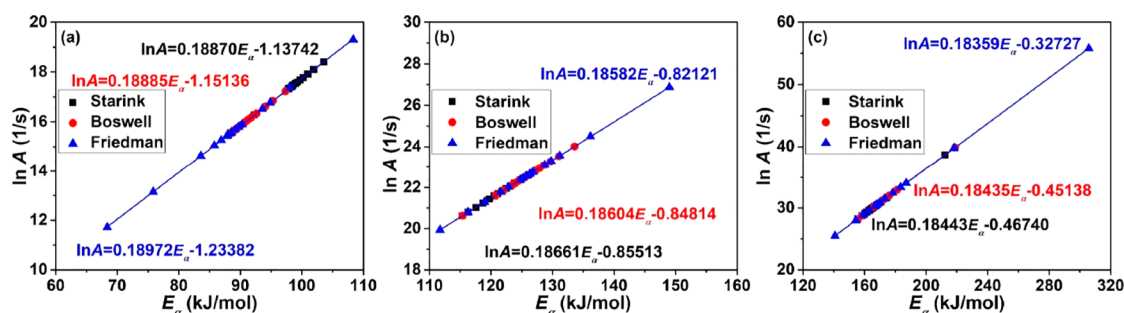


Figure 4. Correlation between the E_α and $\ln(A)$ obtained using different methods for (a) raw CF, (b) CF220, and (c) CF280 samples. Note that the black, red, and blue colors represent the fitting equations and lines obtained by the Starink, Boswell, and Friedman methods, respectively.

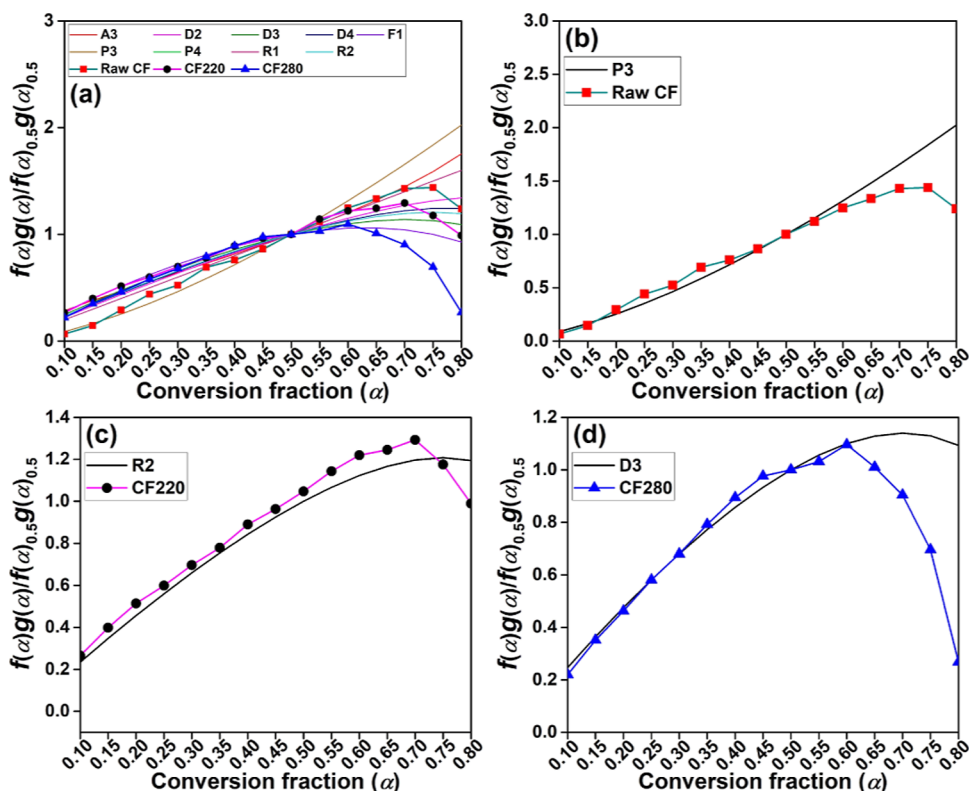


Figure 5. Theoretical and experimental master plots for (a) all three samples, (b) raw CF, (c) CF220, and (d) CF280 samples. The pyrolysis heating rate was 35 °C/min.

Figure 3 shows the variation of E_α with α for raw CF, CF220, and CF280 samples calculated by employing the Starink, Boswell, and Friedman methods. The E_α of all raw and torrefied CF samples generally showed a rising trend as the α increased, although some fluctuations were also observed for the Friedman method. Furthermore, when α ranged from 0.25 to 0.70, the E_α values for raw and CF220 samples estimated by using the Friedman method were quite close to those of the Boswell method. In addition, the E_α values broadly increased with the torrefaction severity, which might be due to the enhanced thermal stability after torrefaction.^{31,48}

Table 4 also summarizes the E_w coefficient of determination (R^2), and A of raw and torrefied CF samples calculated by different methods. For all methods used, high R^2 values ($R^2 > 0.91$) were observed, justifying the accuracy of the kinetic parameters. Through the Starink, Boswell, and

Friedman methods, the average E_α for raw CF was 97.70, 91.32, and 88.57 kJ/mol, respectively.

For the CF220 sample, they increased to 121.04, 125.70, and 126.35 kJ/mol, respectively. For the CF280 sample, they further increased to 167.51, 172.91, and 179.74 kJ/mol, respectively. In addition, the A values also increased with torrefaction severity. For the raw CF, the average values of A calculated by using the Starink, Boswell, and Friedman methods were 4.14×10^7 , 1.11×10^7 , and 2.38×10^7 s⁻¹, respectively. For the CF220 sample, they were 3.32×10^9 , 8.18×10^9 , and 3.91×10^{10} s⁻¹, respectively. For the CF280 sample, they were 4.19×10^{15} , 1.38×10^{16} , and 1.11×10^{23} s⁻¹, respectively.

3.4. Kinetic Compensation Effect. In general, the kinetic compensation effect (KCE) refers to a phenomenon in which changes in the reaction rate are correspondingly compensated by other governing factors. An increase in the E_α usually decreases the reaction rate. However, the KCE

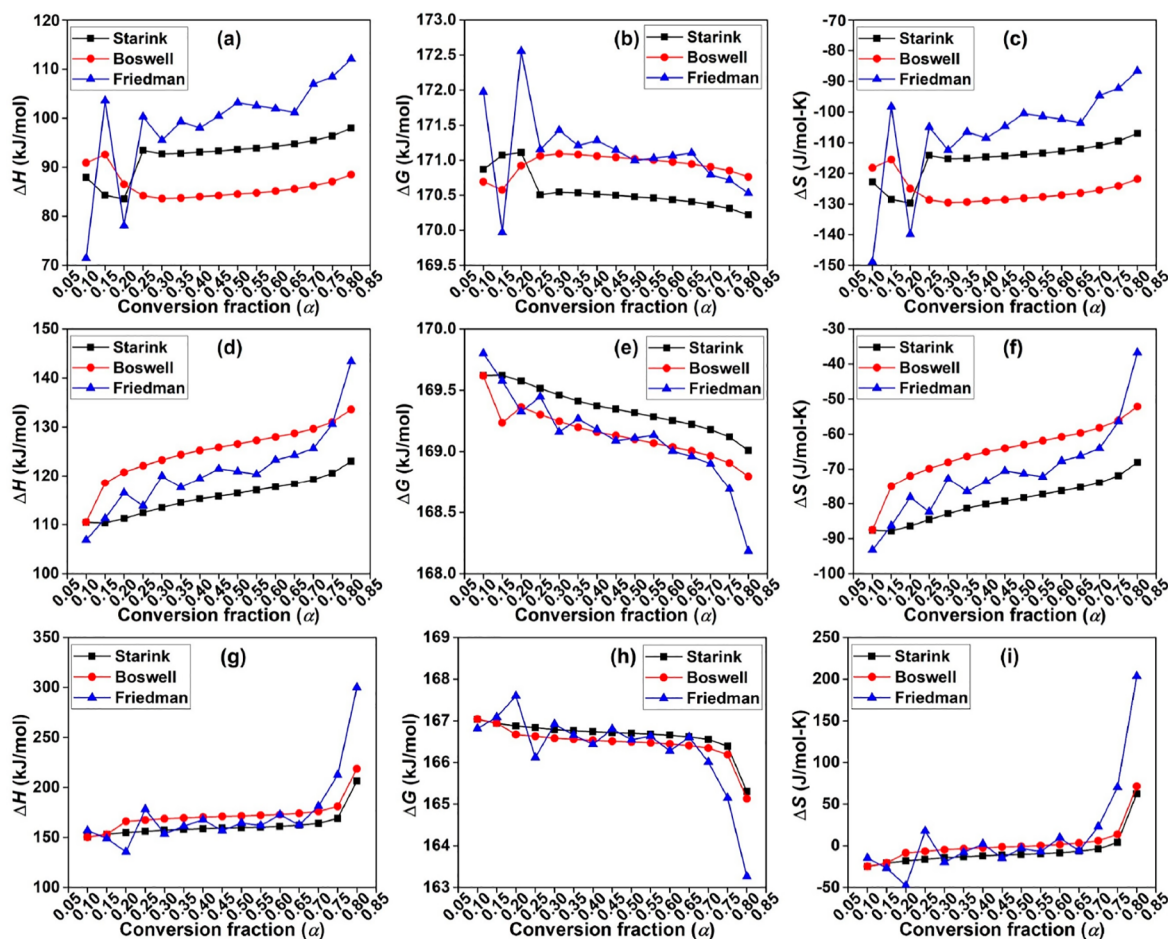


Figure 6. Variation of enthalpy, Gibbs free energy, and entropy with the conversion fraction for (a–c) raw CF, (d–f) CF220, and (g–i) CF280 samples by employing the Starink, Boswell, and Friedman methods.

suggests that other factors such as $\ln(A)$ can show a compensatory change which may lower the effect of increased E_a on the reaction rate. Thus, the KCE highlights the interrelationship between E_a and $\ln(A)$. To explore the KCE during biomass pyrolysis, Figure 4 presents the correlation between the E_a and $\ln(A)$ estimated using different methods for raw CF, CF220, and CF280 samples. Obviously, when $0.10 \leq \alpha \leq 0.80$, a linear relationship between $\ln(A)$ and E_a was observed for all samples and methods, which indicated a compensation effect.

3.5. Determination of the Kinetic Reaction Model.

To investigate the reaction mechanism followed by the biomass samples during pyrolysis, the master-plot method was employed. Figure 5 presents the theoretical and experimental master plots for raw CF, CF220, and CF280 samples under the pyrolysis heating rate of $35\text{ }^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$. For the raw CF sample, when $0.1 < \alpha < 0.60$, the experimental curve basically matched the P3 model. Torrefaction severity can influence the reaction mechanism. For the CF220 sample, when $0.1 < \alpha < 0.70$, the experimental curve was generally consistent with the R2 model. For the CF280 sample, when $0.1 < \alpha < 0.60$, the experimental curve was close to the D3 model, showing that the pyrolysis was associated with diffusion reactions. However, at higher α (e.g., $\alpha > 0.7$), the experimental curves failed to match any theoretical model. This was expected because the char

formation and the thermal degradation of lignin occurred at a high α .⁴⁹

3.6. Thermodynamic Analysis. Figure 6 depicts the variation of ΔH , ΔG , and ΔS with α for raw CF, CF220, and CF280 samples by employing the Starink, Boswell, and Friedman methods. The ΔH could represent the energy required in converting reactants into an activated complex.^{50,51} For the raw CF sample, the Friedman method yielded higher ΔH values than the Starink and Boswell methods within the α range of 0.25–0.80. However, for CF220 and CF280 samples, the ΔH values obtained from the Friedman method were observed to lie in between those of the Starink and Boswell methods within the α ranges of 0.15–0.75 and 0.30–0.65, respectively. In addition, the average ΔH values for raw CF samples using the Starink, Boswell, and Friedman methods were 92.50, 86.11, and 98.87 kJ/mol, respectively. For the CF220 sample, they increased to 115.71, 125.04, and 121.03 kJ/mol, respectively. For the CF280 sample, they further rose to 162.11, 172.22, and 174.33 kJ/mol, respectively. The ΔG provides information about the available amount of energy for the pyrolysis process.⁵² For the raw CF and CF220 samples, the ΔG values obtained by using the Friedman method were comparable to those obtained by using the Boswell method within the α ranges of 0.25–0.80 and 0.20–0.70, respectively. Furthermore, the positive values of ΔG indicated a non-spontaneous nature and suggested an external heat input

required for advancing pyrolysis reactions.⁵³ In addition, when $0.10 \leq \alpha \leq 0.80$ for raw CF and CF220 samples, the ΔS values estimated by using the three methods were negative. In general, the negative ΔS values implied that the disorder decreased. For the CF280 sample, the three methods could produce positive ΔS values for some α . The average ΔS values estimated by using the Starink, Boswell, and Friedman methods were -115.59 , -125.61 , and -107.02 J/mol·K for the raw CF sample, -79.43 , -65.32 , and -71.22 J/mol·K for the CF220 sample, and -6.88 , 1.54 and 11.91 J/mol·K for the CF280 sample, respectively. Overall, these analyses revealed that the degradation process was endothermic, progressed by forming activated complexes, and necessitated some energy.

4. CONCLUSIONS

In this work, the pyrolysis characteristics and kinetic and thermodynamic analyses of raw and torrefied CF samples were systematically explored. Correspondingly, two distinct torrefaction temperatures (i.e., 220 and 280 °C) and four different pyrolysis heating rates (i.e., 5, 15, 25, and 35 °C/min) were selected. The activation energy for pyrolysis was estimated by adopting three isoconversional methods, i.e., the Starink, Boswell, and Friedman methods. The master-plot method was employed to analyze the reaction mechanism followed by raw and torrefied biomass samples. Furthermore, three thermodynamic parameters, i.e., ΔH , ΔG , and ΔS , were calculated. Results show that the average E_a values of CF220 and CF280 samples were higher than that of the raw CF sample. A compensation effect between the activation energy and pre-exponential factor was observed for all samples. The increased ΔH values indicated a higher energy requirement for torrefied CF samples. The negative values of ΔS implied that the disorder decreased.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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