

Dynamic Modeling and Control of an Integrated Solid Sorbent Based CO₂ Capture Process

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MOTIVATION

Under the auspices of US DOE's Carbon Capture Simulation Initiative (CCSI), government and university researchers are collaborating to develop computational models and tools for various post-combustion CO2 capture technologies

As part of this project, our current focus is on the development of dynamic models and control systems for solid-sorbent CO₂ capture processes.



Post- Combustion Solid Sorbent CO₂ Capture

- Solvent based systems typically have high energy cost for regeneration with low CO₂ carrying capacity
- Types of Beds
 - Fixed Bed
 - Bubbling Fluidized Bed[™] (BFB)
 - Moving Bed (MB)











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Model Development for BFB and MB

1-D, two-phase, pressure-driven and non-isothermal model developed in both ACM and gPROMS



Model Assumptions

- Vertical shell & tube type reactor
- Mass balance modeled as plug flow
- Particles are uniformly dispersed through the reactor with constant voidage
- Particle attrition ignored
- Temperature is uniform within the particles



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Components in BFB and MB



- Gaseous species : CO_2 , N_2 , H_2O
- Solid phase components: bicarbonate, carbamate, and physisorbed water.
- Stripping steam is used for regenerator
- Solid Sorbent: NETL 32D, a mesoporous amine-impregnated silica substrate









Kinetics

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 $\frac{\partial Q_{H_2O}}{\partial t}$

$$\begin{split} H_2 O_{(g)} &\leftrightarrow H_2 O_{(phys)} \\ 2R_2 NH + C O_{2,(g)} &\leftrightarrow R_2 NH_2^+ + 2R_2 NCO_2^- \\ R_2 NH + C O_{2,(g)} + H_2 O_{(phys)} &\leftrightarrow R_2 NH_2^+ + HCO_3^- \\ k_{H_2 O} \left[RT_s c_{surf, H_2 O} - \frac{1}{K_{H_2 O}} \rho_s w_{H_2 O} \right] \end{split}$$

$$\frac{\partial Q_{Bic}}{\partial t} = k_{Bic} \left[\left(1 - \frac{2\rho_s w_{Car} + \rho_s w_{Bic}}{n_v} \right) \rho_s w_{H_2O} (RT_s c_{surf,CO_2}) - \frac{1}{K_{Bic}} w_{Bic} \rho_s^2 \left(\frac{w_{Car} + w_{Bic}}{n_v} \right) \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial Q_{Car}}{\partial t} &= k_{Car} \left[\left(1 - \frac{2\rho_s w_{Car} + \rho_s w_{Bic}}{n_v} \right) \left(RT_s c_{surf, CO_2} \right)^m - \frac{1}{K_{Car}} w_{Car} \rho_s^2 \left(\frac{w_{Car} + w_{Bic}}{n_v} \right) \right] \\ k_j &= A_j (T_s + 273.15) exp \left(\frac{-E_j}{RT_s} \right) \\ K_j &= exp \left(\frac{-\Delta S_j}{R} \right) exp \left(\frac{-\Delta H_j}{RT_s} \right) / (P \times 10^5) \end{aligned} \qquad \begin{aligned} & \frac{\Delta H_j \left[J/mol \right]}{L_s} \frac{\Delta S_j \left[J/K/mol \right]}{R_s} \\ & \frac{\Delta H_j \left[J/mol \right]}{L_s} \frac{\Delta S_j \left[J/K/mol \right]}{R_s} \\ & \frac{Bic}{R_s} \frac{-36,300}{R_s} \frac{-88.1}{R_s} \end{aligned} \qquad \begin{aligned} & \frac{RT_s}{R_s} \frac{RT_s}{R_s} \\ & \frac{RT_s}{R_s} \frac{RT_s}{R_s$$

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*Lee et al. A model for the Adsorption Kinetics of CO₂ on Amine-Impregnated Mesoporous Sorbents in the Presence of Water, 28th International Pittsburgh Coal Conference 2011, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

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MB Step Test- Sorbent Temperature



Limitations of Gas Throughput in the MB

Limitation in superficial velocity of gas; need to maintain MB flow regime*

$$\frac{U_c}{\sqrt{gD_x}} = 0.463 A r^{0.145} \qquad v_g < U_c$$

• As sorbent is regenerated gas is released increasing the superficial gas velocity, maximizing at the top of the bed



Two-Stage MB Bed



- Sorbent release of CO₂ increases gas flow and velocity at the top of reactor
- CO₂ draw-off between stages decreases velocity to stay in MB regime
- Steady-state solution is easily achieved, but creates a moving boundary problem for dynamic operation
- Control strategy required for solution

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Multi-Stage MB Control Strategy



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Regulation- Steam Ramp

Response to a 30 second, 22% increase ramp and 10 second, 22% decrease ramp in inlet regeneration steam



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Limitations of MB for Adsorber

Limitation in superficial velocity of gas; need to maintain MB flow regime*

$$\frac{U_c}{\sqrt{gD_x}} = 0.463 A r^{0.145} \qquad v_g < U_c$$

- Because of the high amount of N₂ in the flue gas, a prohibitively large bed diameter or a very high number of parallel beds would be required for a MB adsorber
- Given an adsorber that is treating 2000 mol/s with 12% CO₂ and 90% capture rate, 27 MB in parallel with a diameter of 9 m each would be required.



Bubbling Fluidized Bed



Similar assumptions as the moving bed

Flexible steady-state and dynamic models that can be used for both adsorber or regenerator, with underflow/overflow-type configurations











Dynamic Results – Increase Inlet Gas Flow by 20.6%





n

0.5

z/L

Applications of the BFB and MB Models Other than CO₂ Capture

- Any adsorption (or gas separation) process can be applied, especially for processes for heat input/removal and different flow configurations.
 - Moisture removal
 - Natural gas processing
 - Hydrogen purification
 - Novel solid sorbent processes
 - etc.
- These models can be adapted to other applications by:
 - Define new components and update physical properties
 - Input new reaction kinetic model/data



CO₂ Compression Model

Dynamic model of multi-stage integral-gear compression system with interstage coolers and flash vessels, recycle valves for surge control, and TEG absorber and regenerator



Performance Curves



 Dimensionless exit flow coefficient and impeller isentropic head coefficient for applicability to varying Mach numbers and inlet operating conditions







Transient Step Response

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Transient response in pressure as a result of 10% ramp increase in flowrate

Transient response in power as a result of 10% ramp increase in flowrate

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Integrated Model

- Adsorber
 - Bubbling Fluidized Bed (BFB)
- Regenerator
 - Moving Bed (MB)
- CO₂ Compression
- Balance of Plant

CO₂ Compression



Integrated Process Model

Compressor Train: 8 Stages





Inputs and Conditions

BFB Variable	Base Value	Units
Stage diameter	6	m
Stage height	2.5	m
Steam flue gas rate	400	kmol/hr
Solids inlet flow rate	658000	kg/hr
Solids inlet temperature	60	°C
Loading of bicarbonate	0.25	mol/kg sorbent
Loading of carbamate	1.23	mol/kg sorbent
Loading of water	0.56	mol/kg sorbent

MB Variable	Base Value	Units
Stage Diameter	7	m
Stage Height	2.5	m
Steam inlet flow rate	400	kmol/hr
Solids inlet flow rate	658000	kg/hr
Solids inlet temperature	110	°C
Loading of bicarbonate	0.62	mol/kg sorbent
Loading of carbamate	1.8	mol/kg sorbent
Loading of water	1.03	mol/kg sorbent









Ramp In Flue Gas Example



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Ramp in Regeneration Steam



Conclusions

- Developed flexible, high-fidelity, first principle, dynamic bubbling fluidized bed and moving bed solid sorbent models for CO₂ capture and CO₂ compression
- Multi-stage moving bed model requires reduced gas velocity, resulting in a moving boundary problem
- Model can handle common disturbances
- Work still to be done
 - Process needs optimization for increase in CO₂ removal
 - Develop MB model that has several CO₂ draw-off points with advanced process controller
 - Develop Reduced order model



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