Effect of Nitrites on NaNO3 promoted MgO absorbent for fast CO2 capture

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MgO is well known as an intermediate-temperature CO₂ absorbent because its carbonate decomposition temperature range is lower than other alkaline metal oxide. Pure MgO absorbs CO2 very slowly with poor absorption capacity. NaNO3 is used as a promoter in order to enhance CO2 absorption capacity and kinetic of MgO dramatically. But the NaNO₃-MgO absorbent has several problems for CO₂ absorption. The absorbent has a long induction period of about 30 min and the kinetics of CO2 absorption is not fast enough. In attempts find additives that overcome the deficiency of NaNO3 and to achieve better performance in CO2 absorption with NaNO₃-MgO absorbent, we found that alkali metal nitrite salts could function as a co-promoter with NaNO₃. NaNO₃-MgO absorbent showed high performance for CO₂ absorption with alkali metal nitrite addition and the absorption kinetics of MgO is greatly increased even when the nitrite content is as low as 10 mol%. Alkali metal nitrites in the molten state have higher concentration of oxide ions (O_2-) than do NaNO₃. This property can allow fast generation of carbonate and enable fast growth of MgCO₃. Also, we find another mechanism of this absorbent that alkali metal nitrites make double carbonate with MgO. Details of the study will be reported on the poster.