

Cleaning of exhaust gases with low content of sulfur (IV) oxide

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Abstract – The influence of Ferrum (II) sulfate (FeSO₄) concentration in the absorbent solution and the influence of the process temperature on the efficiency of gas emissions purification in the apparatus with bucket dispersants was investigated.

Keywords – exhaust gases, sulfur (IV) oxide.

Introduction

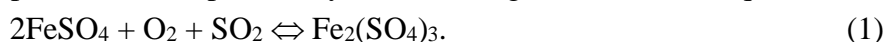
Gas emissions of sulfur (IV) oxide (SO₂) into the atmosphere occupy the second place (after carbon (IV) oxide) by volume and the first place due to harmful effects on the environment. These emissions can lead to crisis environmental conditions, have unpredictable consequences for the health and life of future generations. Therefore, research aimed at developing technologically efficient and cost-effective technologies for the purification of discharged SO₂-containing gases is relevant and important.

In the balance of industrial emissions of SO₂, the bulk (over 80%) accounts for poor exhaust gases (up to 0.5% SO₂). Utilizing SO₂ from such gases is technologically and technically difficult, economically very costly. Therefore, solving the problem can be achieved by removing SO₂ from cheap reagents and waste from other industries. In previous studies, it has been shown that for the purification of gas emissions with low sulfur (IV) oxide it is expedient to use oxidative methods, but as an oxidizer to use air oxygen [1]. The physical and chemical essence of the process corresponds to the greatest extent to the horizontal absorber with bucket dispersants (HABD), which was developed at the department of CTIS [2].

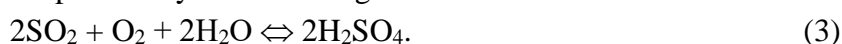
Theoretical part

The oxidation of SO₂ with oxygen in the gas phase is thermodynamically possible under normal conditions. Despite this, gaseous SO₂ and O₂ do not react directly, since the reaction of $2\text{SO}_2(\text{g}) + \text{O}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow 2\text{SO}_3(\text{g})$ is characterized by a high activation energy (210 kJ/mol). It can be accelerated by the use of catalysts. Available industrial vanadium catalysts are relatively expensive, with an optimal temperature of at least 410 °C. Therefore, the neutralization of SO₂ by its catalytic oxidation in the gas phase is economically inappropriate. Therefore, practical interest is the oxidation of SO₂ by oxygen in aqueous, catalytically active solutions. In this aspect, the Ferrum ions are of considerable interest, the source of which may be iron sulfate (FeSO₄ × 7H₂O), which is the withdrawal of many industries.

The reactions that take place can be expressed by the following stoichiometric equations:



In total, this process can be expressed by the following reaction



These processes are equilibrium, so, changing the conditions, you can direct the process to the desired side. The standard electrode potential of the $\text{Fe}^{3+} \rightarrow \text{Fe}^{2+}$ system is equal to 0.77 V, while the system $\text{O}_2 + 4\text{H}^+ + 2\text{e} \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ equals 1.23V. Since the electrode potential of the oxidizer is greater than that of the reducing agent, the reaction will take place, and the driving force of the process will be 0.46 V (1.23-0.77). Consequently, the liquid-phase oxidation of SO_2 by oxygen in the presence of Fe^{2+} i Fe^{3+} ions is theoretically possible, characterized by a rather significant driving force.

Experimental part

Experimental studies were carried out on a laboratory installation of an enlarged type. The installation consisted of three main units: the preparation of a gas mixture for the preparation of the absorbent solution and absorption. As an absorber, HABD was used. Laboratory HABD - is a horizontal cylindrical apparatus (internal diameter 500, length 300 mm), made of organic glass. A bucket dispersant was placed on the bottom of the apparatus on a horizontal shaft.

The influence of temperature on the course of the process was studied in the range 35-50 °C. The concentration of FeSO_4 was changed within the range of 0 ... 0.2 mol/l, and the SO_2 content in the gas mixture - within the limits of 3.5 ... 19.5 g/m³.

It was established that the dependences of the absorption and oxidation steps of the absorbed SO_2 in the liquid phase on the concentration of Ferrum (II) sulfate have an extreme character with a maximum equal to the concentration of FeSO_4 0.025 mol/l. The presence of a maximum can be explained by the fact that the process occurs statically: at first, Fe^{2+} ions are oxidized to Fe^{3+} , which, in turn, oxidizes chemisorbed SO_2 to sulfate ions. Consequently, an increase in the concentration of Fe^{2+} ions will have a positive effect on the oxidation processes. However, the increase in the concentration of FeSO_4 leads to an increase in the acidity of the solution (decrease in pH), and this will negatively affect the absorption of O_2 and SO_2 by the absorbent solution.

An increase in the oxidation rate of sorbed SO_2 can be achieved by an increase in temperature, which for this process, obviously, will have some optimal value. This is explained by the fact that, on the one hand, with increasing temperature the solubility of gases decreases, which leads to a decrease in the concentration of their hydrated forms, and, on the other hand, the increase in temperature leads to an increase in the reaction rate (1, 2). It is established that the optimum temperature of the process of purifying gases from SO_2 by solutions of Ferrum (II) sulfate is in the region of 313 K. In addition, the region of extremum on these dependencies is more pronounced in the case when the contact time in the apparatus is lower. Thus, up to 313 K, the increase in the oxidation rate of sorbed SO_2 is greater than the relative reduction in the solubility of gases.

Conclusions

Studies have helped to identify regularities of SO_2 oxidation with oxygen in aqueous solutions of iron sulfates and determine optimal spacing FeSO_4 concentration and temperature are respectively equal to 0.015 ... 0.03 mol/l and 312 ... 318 K.

References

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