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NEUTRALIZATION OF CARBON MONOXIDE BY MAGNETITE-BASED CATALYSTS

The object of research is the processes of obtaining magnetite particles by the method of chemical condensation with the aim of subsequent use in the conversion of carbon monoxide, which is formed during the combustion of carbon-containing materials in conditions of lack of oxygen or air. One of the most problematic areas for CO neutralization is significant volumes of gas emissions and the complexity of the process of its conversion. Therefore, among the methods existing today – thermal, adsorption, absorption, catalytic – the latter is most often used, as the most acceptable for such conditions. The introduction of catalytic methods is significantly hampered by the need to use noble metals in catalysts, which makes their application on an industrial scale too expensive. The development of cheap and efficient catalysts for the conversion of CO is today a priority line of research in this area.

In the course of research, catalysts based on Fe_3O_4 magnetite particles obtained by chemical condensation are used. The growth method, the freezing-thawing process, and changing the ratio of components in the initial solutions are used to regulate the properties of particles. The ability to control the properties of synthesized particles in a wide range makes magnetite promising for use as a catalyst.

A cheap, effective catalyst for detoxifying carbon monoxide is obtained. A feature of this material is its significant reserves in the earth's crust and the possibility of obtaining it from production waste. The use of waste ironcontaining electrolytes and pickling solutions as raw materials will simultaneously solve the complex environmental problem of their neutralization. The ability to easily control the content of iron ions of different valences allows to obtain a catalyst with a predetermined efficiency. The inertness and stability of magnetite in the environment does not create problems with its disposal after use.

This ensures the production of a cheap, affordable and efficient catalyst for the conversion of CO to CO_2 from production waste or natural material.

Keywords: flue gases, carbon monoxide, iron-containing solutions, growth method, chemical condensation, catalytic method.

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developed in the world with respect to atmospheric pol-

lution with carbon monoxide. For example, in Ukraine in

2018 1.7611 million tons CO were emitted into the atmo-

sphere, which is 45.81 % of all emissions, excluding carbon

dioxide [3]. In this case, both stationary source emissions

and road transport emissions are taken into account. The

most acute problem of carbon monoxide is in many in-

dustrially developed regions, especially in the South and

East of Ukraine. For example, only in the Zaporizhzhia

region 60-70 % of pollutant emissions are generated by

1. Introduction

The current state of the atmosphere is formed, among other things, by human anthropogenic activity. At the same time, a large number of pollutants are released into the environment, which can negatively affect the living conditions of humans and living organisms. Some pollutants are highly toxic and even at low concentrations threaten with rather negative consequences. These pollutants include carbon monoxide (CO), 350-600 million tons of which is annually emitted into the atmosphere as a result of anthropogenic human activities [1]. Of this huge number, 56–62 % is emissions from vehicles, which can contain up to 12 % carbon monoxide. And if special devices in the form of catalysts, heaters, etc. are being developed to neutralize and detoxify carbon monoxide emitted by road transport [2]. this issue does not find adequate attention in industry. Despite the high toxicity and significant amounts of CO, even today, methods for neutralizing carbon monoxide in the waste gases of industrial enterprises are being developed rather slowly, and progressive technologies are being introduced only in units. As a result, thanks to the activities of the industrial sector, a rather threatening situation has

metallurgical enterprises [4]. In the case of the impact of a separate enterprise, then with the current MPC on CO emissions at the level of 250 mg/m³, the emissions of JSC «Ukrainian Graphite» (Kyiv, Ukraine) contain carbon monoxide in the amount of 998.3–1750 mg/m³ [4]. The problem of neutralizing carbon monoxide at the level of industrial enterprises is complicated by the fact that the most effective method of CO neutralization known today is catalytic methods [2]. And if this problem is successfully solved for road transport with small volumes of emissions, then for industrial enterprises the use of similar equipment with a significant consumption of precious metals and low productivity requires further detailed research.

To date, many different methods have been developed for neutralizing carbon monoxide in gas emissions. The most widely used are absorption, thermal, adsorption and catalytic methods. Absorption methods are bulky equipment, so they are practically not used on an industrial scale. The significant cost of sorbents and the need for their regeneration significantly slows down the introduction of adsorption methods. Thermal methods are effective at concentrations of carbon monoxide in waste gases of more than 3 %. Therefore, today the main attention of researchers and industrialists is focused on catalytic methods. The catalytic method by reducing the process temperature to 200-400 °C is 2-2.5 times cheaper than thermal afterburning through a corresponding reduction in energy consumption for heating gases and provides a more complete removal of impurities up to 97-99.9 %. Among other methods, this group is distinguished by high efficiency of the neutralization process, low operating temperatures, high speed of the catalytic process, and simplicity of the technological process [5].

The essence of the process of catalytic detoxification of carbon monoxide consists in passing waste gases through a container filled with granules or equipped with honeycombs, the surface of which is covered with precious metals [6]. Platinum coating provides the greatest efficiency in this case. In some cases, it can reach 96-98 %. At the same time, such a catalyst is distinguished by the highest price, and its use for industry requires significant costs. The modern list of catalysts for neutralizing carbon monoxide is extremely wide - from noble and transition metals and their oxides to natural minerals and wastes from various technological processes. Cheaper in comparison with platinum catalysts with nickel-aluminum intermetallic compounds, however, they also require significant costs in obtaining alloys of these metals [7, 8]. Therefore, in recent years, the attention of some researchers has been focused on the use in the production of catalysts for the neutralization of carbon monoxide sludge formed as a result of wastewater treatment by the ferrite method [9, 10]. It is the use of such sludge that makes it possible to solve both the problem of its utilization and the problem of providing the production of catalysts with cheap raw materials. If to take into account that the efficiency of the investigated catalysts of this type is rather high, then they become the most promising for further implementation. At the same time, research in this direction can't be considered sufficient. Thus, the use of a copper-ferrite catalyst shows that at 140 °C the catalyst provides complete transformation of CO into CO₂ even at an oxygen concentration of about 1 % [10]. More detailed studies in this group of catalysts are currently lacking. At the same time, these catalysts are distinguished by a long service life, low sensitivity to the action of catalytic poisons, have magnetic properties and can be removed from the process stream using a magnetic field for regeneration and reuse [11]. An important aspect is also the fact that ferrites are non-toxic substances and can be easily utilized as alloying additives in metallurgy.

Despite a detailed study of catalytic processes for most types of catalysts, magnetite and ferrites based on it remain out of sight of most researchers in this field. Not only the efficiency of catalysts in the transformation of CO into CO_2 has not been investigated, but also the optimal methods of their synthesis, the possibility of reuse and the intensity of poisoning during the processing of gas emissions. There are practically no data on the intensity of transformation of carbon monoxide, acceptable operating temperatures, and acceptable parameters of the technological process. This prevents the use of simple and effective catalysts in industrial facilities for various purposes. Therefore, it is urgent to develop cheap and affordable catalysts that can be obtained on an industrial scale by simple methods and safely disposed of after use. Thus, the object of research is the processes of obtaining magnetite particles by the method of chemical condensation with the aim of subsequent use in the conversion of carbon monoxide, which is formed during the combustion of carbon-containing materials in conditions of lack of oxygen or air. The aim of this research is to study the possibility of using magnetite and ferrites based on it in the processes of CO transformation into CO2 under different conditions and with different characteristics.

2. Methods of research

Magnetite was obtained by chemical condensation. To synthesize magnetite particles, 2.78 g of $FeSO_4.7H_2O$ and 5.06 g of $FeCl_3.6H_2O$ were dissolved in distilled water and the resulting mixture was treated with an ammonia solution at a temperature of 30-35 °C until a pH value of 9.5–10 was established. As a result of such treatment, fractions of magnetite were formed in the solution in accordance with the reaction:

 $FeSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O + 2FeCl_3 \cdot 6H_2O + 8NH_4OH \rightarrow$

 \rightarrow Fe₃O₄+(NH₄)₂SO₄+6NH₄Cl+17H₂O.

The resulting suspension of magnetite particles for «maturation» was left in the mother liquor for 30 min, after which the solid phase was separated by decantation, washed with distilled water until neutral, and dried at room temperature with access to atmospheric air. The granulometric composition of the solid phase was determined by the photoelectric method (Fig. 1).

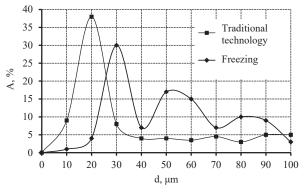


Fig. 1. Granulometric composition of magnetite obtained by the traditional method of chemical condensation and subsequent freezing

To study the transformation of CO into CO_2 using catalysts based on magnetite, let's use the laboratory unit shown in Fig. 2. The unit consists of a heat chamber 4, made of a stainless steel pipe 6 and a ceramic pipe 7, inside which a heating element is located 3. A system for maintaining the set temperature during the experiment,

including thermocouples 5 and a temperature controller 8. By adjusting the duration of the heating element 3, the system maintains the set temperature. A sample of the catalyst under study was poured into a cylindrical container 2 and fixed in a metal tube 6 in such a way as to exclude the passage of a model gas mixture past the catalyst. The volumetric velocity of the model gas flow was changed in the range of $1-5 \text{ dm}^3/\text{min}$ and was measured using gas flow meters 9. During the experiment, using the gas analyzer 1, the content of the components of the gas mixture at the inlet and outlet of the heat chamber was determined. In some cases, molecular nitrogen was additionally used as an inert gas. The concentration of the components of the gas mixture before and after the reaction was analyzed with an accuracy of ± 20 ppm or ± 5 % of the measured values. To stabilize the conditions of the experiment, before carrying out it, the proportion of the catalyst was calcined for 2 hours at a temperature of 450 °C, determining the loss of the catalyst mass. The studies were carried out in the temperature range 200-400 °C. The molar fraction of carbon monoxide in the model gas mixture at the reactor inlet was maintained at 1.1.

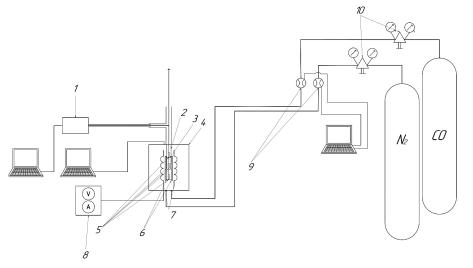


Fig. 2. Diagram of a laboratory unit for studying the processes of catalytic oxidation of carbon monoxide: 1 – gas analyzer VARIO PLUS industrial analyzer MRU air (Germany); 2 – catalyst container made of stainless steel mesh; 3 – heating element; 4 – heat chamber; 5 – thermocouples; 6 – stainless steel tube; 7 – ceramic tube; 8 – temperature regulator; 9 – gas flow meters; 10 – reducers

Carbon monoxide conversion was calculated in accordance with the formula:

$$X_{\rm CO} = \frac{C^{in}{}_{\rm CO} - C^{out}{}_{\rm CO}}{C^{in}{}_{\rm CO}} \cdot 100 \,\%,\tag{1}$$

where C^{in}_{CO} – the mole fraction of CO at the reactor inlet; C^{out}_{CO} – the mole fraction of CO at the reactor outlet.

3. Research results and discussion

During the experiment under these conditions, it was found that the magnetite-based catalyst provides fairly good results (Fig. 3). Compared with iron-copper ferrite, the conversion efficiency is 5-12 %. A significant dependence of the conversion efficiency on the rate of flow of the gas mixture through the catalyst bed was noted. Moreover, with an increase in temperature, this dependence becomes more noticeable and at 400 °C it is about 10 %. The maximum conversion of carbon monoxide is achieved at 400 °C and is 49 %.

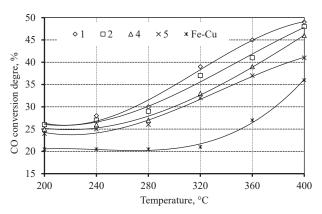


Fig. 3. Temperature dependences of the conversion degree of carbon monoxide when using catalysts based on magnetite at different space velocities of the mixture (dm³/min)

The use of such highly dispersed materials as a catalyst causes some difficulties from the technological point of view. First of all, these are significant energy costs to create the required excess pressure of the gas mixture. Therefore, the possibilities of increasing the size of magnetite particles in various ways were investigated. One of such methods was described earlier under the name of increasing the size of magnetite particles [10]. Its essence lies in the fact that the magnetite obtained by the technology described above was re-processed in a solution of the same composition and precipitated with alkali. In this case, the growth of existing particles and an increase in their size were observed. As a result of the studies carried out, it was found that the most intensive increase in particle size is observed during three cycles of processing magnetite particles.

Further processing was not accompanied by a significant effect. However, the overall effect was quite insignificant. For example, the content of 20 μ m particles decreased by 7 %, while the content of 40 μ m particles increased by 5 %. The build-up effect for larger particles was even smaller. The properties of the powders obtained under such conditions have been investigated and have shown that the increase in the velocity of the gas mixture with the same experimental parameters is less than 1 %. Under such conditions, given the complexity of the growth process, the additional consumption of reagents and significant environmental problems with additional wastewater, the use of the growth method in the processes of obtaining a catalyst for the conversion of carbon monoxide turns out to be inappropriate.

Another method, investigated with the aim of increasing the size of magnetite particles obtained by the method of chemical condensation, is the freezing method. The essence of the method consisted in freezing and thawing, under certain conditions, of a magnetite suspension obtained by the traditional method of chemical condensation. It was found that the conditions of synthesis, freezing and thawing of the suspension significantly affect the granulometric composition of the resulting mixture [12]. It was also determined that the optimal in terms of increasing the size of magnetite particles is the synthesis temperature in the range of 30-35 °C, freezing the resulting suspension at -6 °C and thawing in air at 40 °C. The experiments showed that under these conditions it is possible to obtain a mixture of magnetite particles, in which the content of particles with a size of 20 µm decreases by 34 %, the content of particles with a size of 30 μ m increases by 22 % (Fig. 1). An increase of 2-10 % in the content of particles with a size of more than 30 microns was also noted. The effect of using such a mixture as a catalyst: it allows to increase the speed of the gas mixture by 5-7 % with the same other parameters of the experiment, more significantly than in the previous case. At the same time, in this case, the changes are rather scarce and can't radically affect the technological process. Obviously, for real units, it will be more acceptable to apply magnetite on support granules with appropriate physical properties.

The traditional technology for obtaining magnetite particles involves the use of a mixture of reagents with a concentration ratio of ions $K=[\text{Fe}^{2+}]/[\text{Fe}^{3+}]=0.5$. Under such conditions, the shares of magnetite have the most perfect structure and can be stored for a long time without losing their properties. At the same time, the magnetic properties of the suspension deposited from such a mixture are stored in the range of the parameter K=0.1-3.0. It is obvious that the presence on the surface of magnetite particles of different amounts of iron ions capable of oxidation and reduction, significantly affect the catalytic properties of the mixture. Based on the possible oxidation reaction of carbon monoxide using magnetite particles:

 Fe_2O_3 ·FeO(Fe_3O_4)+CO \rightarrow 3FeO+CO₂,

 $6FeO+O_2 \rightarrow 2Fe_3O_4$,

It is possible to assume that an increase in the amount of iron (III) oxide in the surface layer of particles will increase the intensity of the CO conversion process. The studies carried out under the conditions described above with the use of magnetite particles obtained for different ratios of the parameter K showed that this assumption has experimental confirmation (Fig. 4).

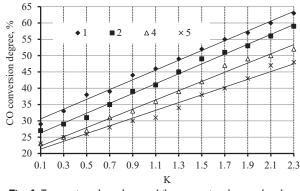


Fig. 4. Temperature dependences of the conversion degree of carbon monoxide when using catalysts based on magnetite at different values of the parameter K and volumetric flow rates of the mixture (dm^3/min)

Experiments carried out at a temperature of 320 °C showed that by adjusting the parameter K it is possible to significantly increase the degree of CO conversion. In this case, it is only worth considering the fact that with an increase in K, the magnetic properties of magnetite particles also decrease almost proportionally and their dispersion increases. Therefore, in practical use, it is necessary to select K depending on the required value of the magnetic permeability of the particles and the desired gas flow rate.

4. Conclusions

The studies confirm the possibility of using magnetite in the processes of neutralizing carbon monoxide in gas emissions of industrial enterprises. By selecting the conditions for the synthesis of magnetite particles, it is possible to obtain a mixture with specified catalytic, magnetic and physical properties. The possibility of obtaining the described mixtures of magnetite particles from production wastes and as a by-product in the purification of certain types of wastewater makes this technology very attractive from both environmental and economic points of view. And also serves as an essential factor for the introduction of technology at industrial facilities.

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DETERMINATION OF EFFECTIVE ENERGY CAPACITY OF THE CONVEYOR WHEN TRANSPORTING DIFFERENT WASTE OF MECHANICAL TREATMENT

The object of research is the process of transportation of mechanical waste from the machine tool to the area of further processing using a modernized screw conveyor. One of the biggest problems in the transportation of mechanical waste remains the high cost of auxiliary processes, which form the final cost of the product. Since it is impossible to reduce the cost by excluding the stages of transportation and processing from the technological process, the energy component of the issue remains. Reducing energy costs at all stages of machining, transportation and processing is an important economic and environmental challenge.

In this work, the energy consumption of the conveyor is determined during the transportation of the shavings obtained during the end turning of the gear rim of the wheel. Also, the work is devoted to the movement of sludge obtained by surface grinding of the cover of a cylindrical gearbox. The examined shavings and sludge are in different states: dry, wet and unprepared.

The analysis of the existing effective equipment for cleaning and moving with the stages of cleaning and processing of cutting fluids, shavings and sludge, taking into account the energy intensity, is carried out. A comparative analysis of the energy consumption of the conveyor, taking into account the energy consumption for the preparation of the transported material – the drying process, is carried out. Recommendations are given regarding the cases of using a dryer for the preparation of shavings and sludge for the processes of moving to the processing, cleaning or disposal zones. The effective values of the energy consumption of the conveyor are determined on the basis of graphical dependencies, based on the conditions of a given productivity.

It is shown that obtaining the effective energy consumption of the conveyor is achieved due to the combined accounting of the energy consumption of the conveyor and equipment for the preparation of chips and sludge. This saves 5-7% in energy costs for an expected performance of 12.4 g/min. As a research result, it is concluded that the effective energy consumption of the conveyor is 70-90 W/min for a given productivity of 10-12 g/min when transporting wet sludge and shavings.

Keywords: cutting fluids, waste transportation, chip processing, sludge processing, disposal.

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1. Introduction

During machining, cutting fluids (coolants) and detergents are used. When machining parts by cutting, the coolant enters the cutting zone, must be clean and free from chips, sludge and other impurities that reduce the cooling and lubricating effect. Contamination in the coolant can lead to a number of other negative consequences. The transportation of machining wastes occurs both with and without coolant. Moving coolant, chips and sludge is a component of the production cost, to reduce which it is necessary to use variable technologies. These technologies include a decrease in electricity consumption due to the refinement of processing processes – switching off/on with the stages of transportation drying of chips and sludge, because the process of drying the chips and separating the cutting fluid from the sludge consumes up to 40 % of the energy consumption of the process.

There is little research into efficient equipment for cleaning cutting fluids in terms of energy intensity. So, work [1]