

Enhancement of CO₂ Capturing Performance of N-Methyldiethanolamine (MDEA) Using with New Class Functionalized Ionic Liquids: Kinetics and Interaction Mechanism Analysis

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Abstract : CO₂ capture using benign cost-effective solvents is an essential unit operation not only in the process industry for CO₂ separation and recovery from industrial off-gas streams but also for direct capture from air to clean the environment. Several solvents are identified, by researchers, with high CO₂ capture efficiency due to their favorable chemical and physical properties, interaction mechanism with CO₂, and low regeneration energy cost. However, N-Methyldiethanolamine (MDEA) is the most frequently used solvent for CO₂ capture with promoters such as piperazine (Pz) and monoethanolamine (MEA). These promoters have several issues such as low thermal stability, heat-stable salt formation, and being highly degradable. Therefore, new class promoters need to be used to overcome these issues. Functionalized ionic liquids (FILs) have the potential to overcome these limitations. Hence, in this work, four different new class functionalized ionic liquids (FILs) were used as promoters and determined their effectivity toward enhancement of the CO₂ absorption performance. The CO₂ absorption is performed at different pressure (2 bar, 4.4 bar, and 7 bar) and different temperature (303, 313, and 323K). The results confirmed that CO₂ loading increases around 18 to 22% after 5wt% FILs blended in the MDEA. It was noticed that the CO₂ loading increases with increasing pressure and decreases with increasing temperature for all absorbents systems. Further, the absorption kinetics was determined, and results showed that all the FILs provide an excellent absorption rate enhancement. Additionally, for the interaction mechanism study, ¹³C NMR analysis was performed for the blend aqueous MDEA-CO₂ system. The results suggested that the FILs blend MDEA system produced a high amount of carbamates and bicarbonates during CO₂ absorption, which further decreases with increasing temperature. Eventually, regeneration energy was calculated, and results confirmed that the energy heat duty penalty was lower in the [TETAH][Im] blend MDEA system. Overall, [TETAH][Pz], [TETAH][Im], [DETAH][Im] and [DETAH][Tz] showed the promising ability as promoters to enhance CO₂ capturing performance of MDEA.

Keywords : CO₂ capture, interaction mechanism, kinetics, Ionic liquids

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