

CO₂ capture - How can XAS help us?

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Owing to the increasing concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere and the climate change associated with it, there is increasing pressure to reduce the anthropogenic emissions of CO₂. CO₂ capture and storage (CCS) is a mid-term solution to mitigate climate change. However, the currently technologically available CO₂ capture technique, i.e. amine scrubbing has very high, potentially prohibitively high CO₂ capture costs. Thus, the development of more efficient CO₂ capture processes is imperative. Recently, CO₂ capture via the reversible carbonation/calcination reaction of CaO and the so-called chemical looping combustion process has been proposed. A cornerstone of these two processes is the development of novel CaO and transition metal based materials which possess, respectively, a high and stable CO₂ uptake capacity and stable redox characteristics. In addition, to model the CO₂ capture processes a better understanding of the underlying reaction mechanisms is required. In this talk we present our preliminary results using X-ray absorption spectroscopy to elucidate reaction pathways during material synthesis and repeated redox cycles.

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