Dielectric Spectroscopy of Coking Coal with High Sulphur Content†

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Using reflection transmission method to measure the permittivity of coking coal from Shanxi province in the frequency range between 200-600 MHz. Results shows that the real part and imaginary part of dielectric constant of three coal samples all decreased with the increase of frequency. The loss tangent of raw coal and clean coal decreases with the increase of frequency. There is a good linear relationship between $\log \epsilon'$, $\log \epsilon''$ and $\log f$ by data fitting processing.

Keywords: Coking coal, Dielectric spectrum, Frequency, Data fitting.

INTRODUCTION

The sulphur content in coal is of great concern owing to its harmful effect on boilers where sulphates cause corrosion, its lowering of the quality of metallurgical coal and atmospheric pollution.

Desulphurization of coal using high power microwave energy was previously investigated¹⁻³. The primary advantage of microwave processing is the specificity of microwave energy absorption, allowing volumetric heating of materials. Based on the principle, the interaction of microwave energy and coal sample can be written⁴:

$$P = 55.63 \times 10^{-12} f E^2 \epsilon'' \quad (1)$$

where P is the absorbed energy of the coal media (W), f the operating frequency (Hz), E the intensity of the electric-field (V/m) and ϵ'' the imaginary part of relative complex permittivity. Under the given microwave frequency and microwave field intensity, coal absorption power is proportional to the imaginary part of the complex dielectric constant.

Many researchers studied on dielectric properties of coal⁵⁻⁸. In previous studies, dielectric property of coal is mainly concentrated in the different ranks; research on high sulphur coking coal is relatively rare. This paper chooses typical high sulphur coking coal to measure the permittivity of the sample. Summarize the rule of variety by fitting analysis. These consequences are of significance to coking coal desulphurization by microwave.

EXPERIMENTAL

Preparation of the coal sample: Coal sample was collected from Shanxi province, China. The coal sample was pulverized to pass through a 200 mesh sieve ($< 75 \mu\text{m}$), after drying under natural air and stored in a glass desiccator until further experiments. Industry analysis and ultimate analysis results are listed in Table-1.

Test method: The transmission/reflection (TR) method is relatively simple, as well as high accuracy in wide band frequencies. Thus, transmission/reflection technique is used for the measurements of the complex permittivities of coal samples. Test frequency: 200-600 MHz; test temperature: 20 °C, test instruments: Agilent E8363A vector network analyzer.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The dielectric properties of coal samples were measured. The $\tan \sigma$ calculated by using formulae:

$$\tan \sigma = \frac{\epsilon''}{\epsilon'} \quad (2)$$

The results are shown in Table-2. We made graphs and abscissa is frequency, vertical use ϵ'' , ϵ' , $\tan \sigma$ separately (Figs. 1-3).

According to the Fig. 1, real part of dielectric constant of three different coal samples rapidly decreased with the frequency increased; then kept in a certain level after 500 MHz.

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TABLE-1
PROXIMATE AND ULTIMATE ANALYSIS OF XINYU COAL SAMPLE

Sample	Proximate analysis (%)				Ultimate analysis (% daf)				
	Mad	Vd	Ad	FCd	Cdaf	Hdaf	Ndaf	St,d	O ^a daf
Raw-coal	1.03	27.81	18.02	54.17	84.21	4.45	1.52	2.68	6.55
Clean-coal	1.11	17.65	10.28	71.27	88.04	1.22	0.11	2.20	8.43
Coal seam sample	0.77	20.19	5.89	73.15	91.36	1.27	0.10	4.10	4.44

TABLE-2
TEST DATA

Test frequency	Raw-coal			Clean-coal			Coal seam sample		
f (MHz)	ϵ'	ϵ''	$\tan \sigma$	ϵ'	ϵ''	$\tan \sigma$	ϵ'	ϵ''	$\tan \sigma$
200	40.3064	10.5535	0.2618	20.0153	5.9754	0.2985	15.1967	2.0971	0.1380
222	30.8720	7.6105	0.2465	16.0938	4.6024	0.2860	12.8402	1.8723	0.1458
245	24.4908	5.7157	0.2334	13.3110	3.6662	0.2754	11.0511	1.6746	0.1515
267	19.9904	4.4420	0.2222	11.2714	3.0019	0.2663	9.6679	1.5077	0.1559
289	16.7124	3.5486	0.2123	9.7410	2.5154	0.2582	8.5826	1.3624	0.1587
311	14.2643	2.9032	0.2035	8.5661	2.1511	0.2511	7.7172	1.2403	0.1607
334	12.3912	2.4265	0.1958	7.6528	1.8742	0.2449	7.0211	1.1377	0.1620
356	10.9369	2.0625	0.1886	6.9300	1.6547	0.2388	6.4567	1.0513	0.1628
378	9.7830	1.7846	0.1824	6.3510	1.4805	0.2331	5.9944	0.9789	0.1633
400	8.8568	1.5661	0.1768	5.8872	1.3399	0.2276	5.6137	0.9158	0.1631
422	8.1089	1.3902	0.1714	5.5110	1.2279	0.2228	5.3014	0.8610	0.1624
445	7.4935	1.2495	0.1667	5.2090	1.1336	0.2176	5.0457	0.8160	0.1617
467	6.9893	1.1327	0.1621	4.9639	1.0569	0.2129	4.8341	0.7770	0.1607
489	6.5707	1.0362	0.1577	4.7678	0.9938	0.2084	4.6618	0.7460	0.1600
512	6.2249	0.9577	0.1538	4.6114	0.9378	0.2034	4.5228	0.7176	0.1587
534	5.9349	0.8915	0.1502	4.4904	0.8931	0.1989	4.4135	0.6938	0.1572
556	5.6974	0.8369	0.1469	4.3991	0.8564	0.1947	4.3283	0.6742	0.1558
578	5.4977	0.7890	0.1435	4.3346	0.8222	0.1897	4.2645	0.6561	0.1538
600	5.3340	0.7476	0.1402	4.2915	0.7949	0.1852	4.2216	0.6418	0.1520

Fig. 1. Curves of the real part

Fig. 3. Curves of the loss angle tangent

Fig. 2. Curves of the imaginary part

Polar molecules in coal under the applied electric field should be through a polarized towards and regular arrangement to demonstrate the regularity of polarization. At lower frequencies, the alternating electric field change needs a longer time, polar molecules to be easier, polarization phenomenon obviously. So that coal sample has a higher dielectric constant at the lower frequency band. As the frequency increases, alternating electric field in the direction of the same time will be shorter, polar molecules have not enough time to steer, dielectric constant has less value.

As shown in Fig. 2, ϵ'' of test coal varies with the frequency can be found similar with ϵ' . According to Fig. 3, dielectric loss angle tangent value of raw coal and clean coal with the frequency increasing linearly declining; coal seam has a slight

TABLE-3
FITTING RESULTS

Sample	Functional relation	Fitting result	R ²
Raw coal	$\epsilon' - f$	$\log \epsilon' = 5.7308 - 1.8239 \log f$	0.9918
	$\epsilon'' - f$	$\log \epsilon'' = 6.4498 - 2.3894 \log f$	0.9893
	$\tan \sigma - f$	$\log \tan \alpha = 0.7190 - 0.5655 \log f$	0.9999
Clean coal	$\epsilon' - f$	$\log \epsilon' = 4.4411 - 1.3955 \log f$	0.9667
	$\epsilon'' - f$	$\log \epsilon'' = 4.8917 - 1.8174 \log f$	0.9841
	$\tan \sigma - f$	$\log \tan \alpha = 0.4505 - 0.419 \log f$	0.9948
Coal seam	$\epsilon' - f$	$\log \epsilon' = 3.8318 - 1.1730 \log f$	0.9742
	$\epsilon'' - f$	$\log \epsilon'' = 2.8712 - 1.1124 \log f$	0.9941
	$\tan \sigma - f$	$\log \tan \alpha = 6.5923 + 4.4885 \log f - 0.8676 (\log f)^2$	0.9968

increased. Dielectric loss of clean coal is greater than raw coal and coal seam.

Data fitting by data processing system: The curve between $\log \epsilon'$, $\log \epsilon''$, $\log \sigma$ and $\log f$ was fitted through the software of DPS (Data Processing System). The fitting results and determination coefficient (R^2) are shown in Table-3.

Prediction results showed that $\log \epsilon'$ and $\log \epsilon''$ of three coal sample was linearly related to the $\log f$; $\log \tan \sigma$ of raw coal and clean coal was also linearly related to the $\log f$. There is a quadratic curve relation between $\log \tan \sigma$ of coal seam sample and $\log f$.

Conclusion

The following conclusions can be attained:

- Real part of dielectric constant of three different coal samples rapidly decreased with the frequency increased; then kept in a certain level after 500 MHz.
- Dielectric loss angle tangent value of raw coal and clean coal with the frequency increasing linearly declining; coal seam has a slightly increased. Dielectric loss of clean coal is greater than raw coal and coal seam.
- The $\log \epsilon'$ and $\log \epsilon''$ of three coal sample was linearly related to the $\log f$; $\log \tan \sigma$ of raw coal and clean coal was also linearly related to the $\log f$.

- There is a quadratic curve relation between $\log \tan \sigma$ of coal seam sample and $\log f$.

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