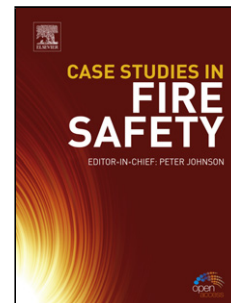


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Authors: Mobbassar Hassan Sk, Aboubakr M. Abdullah, Monika Ko, Bridget Ingham, Nick Laycock, Rakesh Arul, David. E. Williams



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Local supersaturation and the growth of protective scales during CO₂ corrosion of steel: effect of pH and solution flow.

Mobbassar Hassan Sk and Aboubakr M Abdullah
Center for Advanced Materials (CAM), Qatar University,
Doha, 2713, Qatar

Monika Ko¹
Quest Integrity Group
PO Box 38-096, Lower Hutt 5045, New Zealand

Bridget Ingham
Callaghan Innovation Research Ltd
PO Box 31-310, Lower Hutt, New Zealand

Nick Laycock
Qatar Shell Research and Technology Centre
Doha 3747, Qatar

Rakesh Arul and David.E. Williams *
University of Auckland
School of Chemical Sciences, MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced
Materials and Nanotechnology, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, 1022,
New Zealand
David.williams@auckland.ac.nz

¹ Present address Quest Integrity Group, B-20-UG Jalan C180/1,
43200 Cheras, Selangor, Malaysia

Highlights

- Kinetics of formation of protective siderite scale during CO₂ corrosion elucidated
- Observed current is sum of crystallisation and dissolution as carbonato complex
- Initial amorphous film controls crystallisation kinetics and dissolution rate
- Crystal nucleation independent of hydrodynamics
- Hydrodynamics controls dissolution and crystal growth differently

Abstract

By correlating *in-situ* synchrotron X-ray diffraction measurements with electrochemical measurements using a rotating disc electrode, we demonstrate the critical dependence on the local supersaturation of the kinetics of formation of a protective crystalline scale on the surface of carbon steel during CO₂ corrosion in brine at elevated temperature. We show that the total current is the sum of a current due to dissolution of iron and a current due to growth of a crystalline layer. We show that the dissolution current and the surface supersaturation are controlled by the thickness of an initially-formed amorphous layer. As in earlier work at room temperature, we infer that the

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