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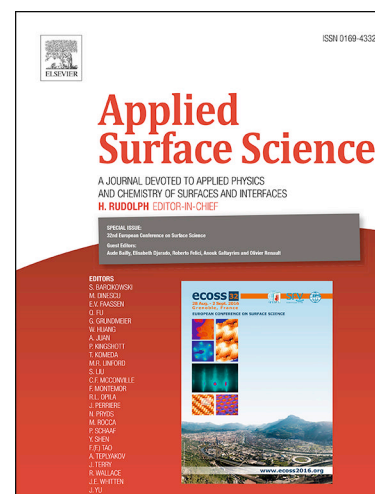
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A density functional based tight binding (DFTB+) study on the sulfidization-amine flotation mechanism of smithsonite

Ye Chen^a Meng Liu^a Jianhua Chen^{a,b,c*} Yuqiong Li^a Cuihua Zhao^a Xiao Mu^a

- a. *School of Resources, Environment and Materials, Guangxi University, Nanning, China 530004*
- b. *Guangxi Key Laboratory of Processing for Non-ferrous Metal and Featured Materials, Guangxi University, Nanning China 530004*
- c. *Innovation Center for Metal Resources Utilization and Environment Protection, Guangxi University, Nanning, China 530004*

Abstract: Sulfidization-amine is the most effective method for the recovery of smithsonite (ZnCO_3), however the interface interaction details remain unclear. The sulfidization-amine flotation mechanism of smithsonite has been studied by Density Functional based Tight Binding (DFTB+) method in this paper. The slab model of ZnCO_3 (101) surface was built and the adsorptions of a monolayer of OH^- , HS^- and S^{2-} ions were conducted to model the hydration effect of water and the sulfidization effect on the ZnCO_3 (101) surface adsorption. On the primitive smithsonite surface, the adsorption of dodecylamine (DDA) is stronger than dodecyl secondary amine (DSA) and dodecyl tertiary amine (DTA). However, DDA hardly interacts with the hydrated ZnCO_3 (101) surface. Under the low concentration of Na_2S , HS^- ions form a Zn-SH-SH structure on the ZnCO_3 (101) surface, which hinders the interaction between DDA and surface Zn atoms. Under the high concentration of Na_2S , a layer of ZnS is formed on ZnCO_3 (101) surface, which is favorable for the adsorption of DDA on the surface. This is consistent with the flotation practice where smithsonite flotation requires a large amount of sodium sulfide. The results could provide a microscopic investigation into the sulfidization-amine flotation mechanism of smithsonite.

Key words: Smithsonite, Flotation, DFTB+, Amine, Sulfidization

1. Introduction

*Corresponding authors. Tel: +86-771-3232200; Email: jhchen@gxu.edu.cn;

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