Greenhouse gas (SF₆) capture by hydrate-based gas separation

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This study examined the feasibility of hydrate-based SF_6 separation by measuring thermodynamic, structural, and kinetic characteristics of $SF_6 + N_2$ hydrates. First, the three-phase (hydrate (H) – water (L_W) – vapor (V)) equilibria of $SF_6 + N_2$ hydrates were experimentally investigated to demonstrate the effect of N_2 on the thermodynamic stability of $SF_6 + N_2$ hydrates. Second, a pressure-composition diagram was obtained using gas chromatograph (GC) to assess the SF_6 separation efficiency. Third, the changes in SF_6 compositions and the amount of gas consumption during hydrate formation were measured to study the hydrate formation rate and time-dependent selectivity of SF_6 in the hydrate phase. The kinetic selectivity of SF_6 was also confirmed using the direct composition measurement and in-situ Raman spectroscopy. Although SF_6 was preferentially captured in the hydrate phase, significant kinetic selectivity of SF_6 in the hydrate phase was not observed during the hydrate formation. The experimental results obtained in this study would be useful for designing and operating the hydrate-based SF_6 separation process.