

Argon Sparging to Remove O as CO from Molten Steel of mass M

A mole balance on O in the steel melt gives

$$\text{In} - \text{Out} = \text{Accumulation}$$

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$$dn_{CO} = -\frac{M}{16} \frac{d(\text{wt}\% O)}{100\%} = -\frac{Md(\text{wt}\% O)}{1600\%} \quad (1)$$

The relationship between the moles of CO in an incremental volume of argon is determined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} dn_{CO} &= d \left[\frac{P_{CO} V_T}{RT} \right] \\ P_{Ar} V_T &= P_T V_{Ar} \\ V_T &= \frac{P_T}{P_{Ar}} V_{Ar} = \frac{P_T}{P_T - P_{CO}} V_{Ar} \\ dn_{CO} &= d \left[\frac{P_{CO} \left(\frac{P_T}{P_T - P_{CO}} \right) V_{Ar}}{RT} \right] \\ dn_{CO} &= P_T \left(\frac{P_{CO}}{P_T - P_{CO}} \right) \frac{dV_{Ar}}{RT} \quad (2) \end{aligned}$$

Substituting Eq [2] into Eq [1] and integrating gives

$$\begin{aligned} dV_{Ar} &= -\frac{RTM}{1600P_T} \left[\frac{P_T}{P_{CO}} - 1 \right] d(\text{wt}\% O) \\ &= -\frac{RTM}{1600P_T} \left[\frac{P_T}{K(\text{wt}\% O)(\text{wt}\% C)} - 1 \right] d(\text{wt}\% O) \\ V_{Ar} &= \frac{RTM}{1600P_T} \left[(\text{wt}\% O_f - \text{wt}\% O_i) + \frac{P_T}{K(\text{wt}\% C)} \ln \left(\frac{\text{wt}\% O_i}{\text{wt}\% O_f} \right) \right] \quad (3) \end{aligned}$$