

1 **Pressure response and phase transitions during a release of high pressure CO<sub>2</sub> from an**  
2 **industrial-scale pipeline**

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9 **Abstract:** As part of the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) process, pipeline transportation of  
10 dense phase CO<sub>2</sub> is the safest and most economic option for delivering captured CO<sub>2</sub> to a storage  
11 site. However, in the event of pipeline rupture an enormous mass of CO<sub>2</sub> may be released very  
12 rapidly, presenting several risks to the pipeline and surrounding population including the  
13 significantly increased risk of brittle fracture in the pipe wall. The study of pressure variation and  
14 phase change in CO<sub>2</sub> during pipeline blowdown can contribute to the understanding of brittle  
15 fracture initiation and propagation, as well as downstream CO<sub>2</sub> diffusion behaviour. As part of the  
16 CO<sub>2</sub>QUEST project, a reusable, industrial scale pipeline experimental apparatus with a total  
17 length of 258 m and the inner diameter of 233 mm was fabricated to study CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline  
18 blowdown. A dual-disc blasting device was used to remotely control the opening of the pipeline,  
19 three different orifice diameters were used in experiments (15 mm, 50 mm and Full Bore  
20 Rupture). Different initial conditions in the inventory were achieved by heating the charged

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21 pipeline and by varying the mass of CO<sub>2</sub> used. The instantaneous pressure response following  
22 release was measured with high frequency pressure transducers the overall depressurization  
23 process was recorded with low frequency transducers. Variation in fluid temperature was also  
24 recorded. Six groups of CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline release experiments were conducted with initially gaseous and  
25 dense inventories, the variation in fluid pressure and temperature was recorded and phase  
26 transitions observed and analysed for each release.

27 Keywords: CO<sub>2</sub> release, Pressure response, Phase transition, large scale pipeline blowdown.

## 28 1. Introduction

29 Following the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference (2009) there is a broad political consensus  
30 to limit the rise in global temperatures to 2 °C above pre-industrial levels. This requires a 50-80 %  
31 reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050 [1]. Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is a process by which  
32 waste CO<sub>2</sub> is captured from large emitters and stored underground, thus reducing direct  
33 emissions to the atmosphere [2] and mitigating the environmental impact of fossil fuels.

34 As a part of the CCS chain, pipeline transportation of CO<sub>2</sub> from emitter to storage site is  
35 considered the safest and most efficient transportation option [3]. The large scale  
36 implementation of CCS will require large transportation networks, potentially between 95,000  
37 and 550,000 km of CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines by 2050 [4]. Safety issues surrounding the operation of CO<sub>2</sub>  
38 pipelines are expected to be complex compared to current practice [5,6]. Additionally, CO<sub>2</sub>  
39 transmission pipelines may be expected to suffer from accidental releases caused by defects such  
40 as mechanical damage, corrosion, construction or material defects, soil movement or even  
41 operational mistakes in a similar fashion to hydrocarbon pipelines, for example [6].

42 Understanding the processes occurring inside a CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline during outflow is essential to

43 investigating fracture propagation and atmospheric dispersion of the inventory [12-16]. For an  
44 initially high pressure inventory, whether gaseous, dense phase or supercritical, there is likely to  
45 be a complex phase-transition as CO<sub>2</sub> decompresses during pipeline blowdown [10]. The rupture  
46 of a CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline will result in a series of expansion waves that propagate into the undisturbed  
47 fluid in the pipe. Significant Joule-Thomson cooling associated with the rapid expansion of the  
48 inventory can result in very low and potentially harmful temperatures in the fluid and pipe wall  
49 [11]. The precise tracking of these expansion waves and temperature variations, and their  
50 propagation as a function of time and distance along the pipeline, is necessary to predict a  
51 pipeline's propensity to fracture [9]. A pipeline failure (most commonly a puncture) may escalate  
52 to a fracture if the force acting on the defect overcomes the fracture toughness of the wall  
53 material. The fracture may be either in the ductile or brittle regime depending on the nature of  
54 the rupture [8].

55 In order to develop accurate models for predicting the depressurization and phase transition  
56 behavior during CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline blowdown, several experimental research programs have been  
57 performed. A large scale underground pipeline rupture test was carried out in the COSHER joint  
58 industry project to study pipeline depressurization and dispersion of initially dense phase CO<sub>2</sub>,  
59 with a 219.1 mm diameter pipeline loop was fed from both ends by a 148 m<sup>3</sup> reservoir of CO<sub>2</sub>. A  
60 fast pressure drop during CO<sub>2</sub> release was observed after the inventory reached saturation  
61 conditions [17]. On behalf of National Grid at the Spadeadam Test Site, three West Jefferson  
62 Tests were conducted to investigate ductile fracture propagation in pipelines transporting liquid  
63 or dense phase CO<sub>2</sub>. The two factors that affect the appearance of a rupture are the length of the  
64 initial defect and the ratio of the toughness of the line pipe to the toughness required to arrest a

65 running ductile fracture. [18]. Koeijera et al [19] built a horizontal pipeline with a length of 139 m  
66 and an inner diameter of 10 mm in order to study the depressurization behavior of liquid CO<sub>2</sub>.  
67 Along the pipe, pressure and temperature transducers were installed at 0, 50, 100, 139 m from  
68 the closed end. The results show that the pressure drops rapidly at first and then levels off. The  
69 rarefaction wave travels across the length of the tube, and which is reflected at the closed end. The  
70 wave amplitude diminishes mainly due to wall friction. A depressurization model was developed and  
71 its results were compared with experimental data. It is concluded that the model is experimentally  
72 verified but more work is needed for further improvement and extending the validity range. [19,20].  
73 Cosham et al [21] performed a program of shock tube tests with CO<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>-rich mixtures in  
74 order to study decompression behaviour in the gaseous and dense phases. The researchers found  
75 that the decompression behaviour of dense CO<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>-rich mixtures was very different to that  
76 of natural gas, gaseous CO<sub>2</sub> and gaseous CO<sub>2</sub>-rich mixtures. The plateau in the decompression  
77 curve of dense CO<sub>2</sub> is long [21]. Xie et al developed a circulation pipeline system to study the  
78 leakage behavior of high pressure CO<sub>2</sub> flow, which was about 23 m long with an inner diameter of  
79 30 mm. The experimental results indicated that the depressurization process of  
80 supercritical-phase is different from that of the gas-phase. The pressure decrease or mass loss of  
81 CO<sub>2</sub> in the pipeline was much larger for supercritical leakage due to the higher density. [24]. Huh  
82 et al [25] studied the severe pressure and temperature drops during the depressurization of  
83 dense CO<sub>2</sub> in a 51.96 m long test tube with an inner diameter of 3.86 mm. The results of  
84 numerical simulations generated with OLGA were compared against experimental data. It was  
85 found that the initial pressure drop was well estimated by OLGA for both pure CO<sub>2</sub> and mixtures,  
86 but the numerical simulation did not provide reliable temperature drop predictions [25]. Clausen

87 et al [26] described the results of depressurizing during CO<sub>2</sub> venting with an onshore 50 km long,  
88 24 inch diameter buried pipeline from initially supercritical conditions. Pressure and temperature  
89 were measured at the two ends of the pipeline. The depressurization of this pipeline was also  
90 simulated with OLGA. According to both experimental data and simulations, the depressurization  
91 stayed well above the triple point of CO<sub>2</sub>, and there was no indication of dry ice formation  
92 upstream the two release points. Simulation results deviated from the experimental data after  
93 the inventory reached saturation conditions [26]. DNV-GL carried out CO<sub>2</sub> depressurization  
94 experiments using a 30 m long, 2 inch diameter stainless steel tube, to study fast  
95 depressurization of high pressure liquid CO<sub>2</sub> inventories. This work investigated the minimum  
96 temperatures reached during blowdown [27].

97 This paper presents the results of pipeline blowdown experiments using a 258 m long, 233 mm  
98 inner diameter pipeline containing CO<sub>2</sub> at various initial conditions. Fluid pressures and  
99 temperatures in the pipeline were recorded. The experiments' main objective was to improve the  
100 understanding of decompression behavior and phase transition during the release of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## 101 2. Experiments

### 102 2.1 Experimental system

103 The main components of the experimental setup are shown in Fig.1. The apparatus consists of a  
104 single pipeline with a length of 257 m and inner and outer diameters of 233 and 273 mm  
105 respectively, a dual-disc blasting pipe with a length of 1 m, a CO<sub>2</sub> injection line, a heating system  
106 and two data measurement systems. The main pipe was made of 16MnR steel, which has a  
107 minimum allowable temperature of -40 °C, whereas the dual-disc blasting pipe was made of  
108 grade 304 stainless steel and its minimum allowable temperature was -196 °C. The pipeline

109 apparatus was designed to operate at a maximum pressure of 16 MPa. 24 concrete column  
110 foundations were built to support the pipeline at a height of 1.3 m above ground.

111 The inventory temperature could be maintained or increased during charging or before  
112 experiments using a heating system made up of heating tape and a 50 mm thick thermal  
113 insulation layer mounted on the outer pipe surface, the tape was controlled via six temperature  
114 controllers. The heating tape power was 50 kW. The heating system was designed to vary the  
115 initial temperature of the inventory from 0 to 40 °C.

116 To open the pipeline and initiate experiments a dual disc blasting device is used. This device is  
117 1 m long and consists of two rupture discs and two disc holders, a solenoid valve and two pipe  
118 sections (Section 1 with a length of 0.6 m; Section 2 with a length of 0.3 m) connected by a flange  
119 and bolts. A schematic of the dual-disc blasting device is shown in [Fig. 2](#). The pipeline was  
120 charged with the appropriate mass of inventory for each experiment and the heating coils used  
121 to achieve the desired initial conditions. The pressure  $P_2$  in section I was maintained  
122 proportionally to the pressure  $P_1$  inside the main pipeline. To initiate the experiment, the  
123 pressure  $P_2$  in section I was rapidly raised, forcing the disc B to break, resulting in the near  
124 simultaneous rupture of disc A. Because the length of the dual-disc device (1 m) is much shorter  
125 than the main pipeline (257 m), its influence on pressure and temperature measurements in the  
126 main pipe can be ignored.

127 The recoil-shock created when initiating full bore rupture (FBR) experiments was significant. A  
128 reinforced anchor device was designed and installed to hold the release end of the pipeline firmly  
129 in place, as shown in [Fig. 3](#). The device consisted of steel frames, steel plate, and anchor bolts  
130 anchored firmly to the concrete foundation. The reacting force and frictional force of the

131 reinforcement device could resist an acting force of more than 400 kN.

## 132 2.2 Pipeline Instrumentation

133 Various instruments were installed along the pipeline, including 4 low frequency pressure sensors,  
134 8 high frequency pressure sensors, 18 thermocouples on the upper half of pipeline, 6  
135 thermocouples on the bottom half of pipeline and 12 thermocouples on the outer wall of  
136 pipeline. Pressure change in the overall process was measured using PPM-S322G pressure  
137 transducers with a frequency response of 1 kHz and an accuracy of 0.25 %FS of full scale.  
138 Pressure change at the beginning of release was measured using PPM-S116B-OEM pressure  
139 transducers with a frequency response of 100 kHz and an accuracy of 0.25 %FS of full scale.  
140 Temperature was measured using K-type thermocouples which had a response time of 100 ms  
141 and a range of -200 °C to 1300 °C, and uncertainty of  $\pm 1$  °C. The installing angle of  
142 measurement points are shown in [Fig. 4](#).

143 Data was recorded using two independent measuring systems, an NI cRIO-9025 system which  
144 was used to simultaneously sample 4 low frequency pressure sensors and all the thermocouples  
145 and an NI cDAQ-9188 system which was used to sample 8 high frequency pressure sensors. The  
146 NI cRIO-9025 system consisted of one 9025, four 9144 chasses and twelve 9219 modules for  
147 temperature and pressure signal acquisition. The 5 chasses were connected using ordinary  
148 internet access cable. The communication protocol used EtherCAT at 110 ms/sample to ensure  
149 synchronised data gathering. All of the data acquired would be cached in the host 9025. The NI  
150 cDAQ-9188 system consisted of two 9188 of 4 channels with a high-speed of 500 kS/s. LabVIEW  
151 software was used to transfer the data from the 9025 or 9188 to a local computer by Ethernet.

## 152 2.3 Experiments Conducted

153 In this paper, three groups of CO<sub>2</sub> release experiments were performed to investigate  
154 decompression behaviour and phase transition during the release of CO<sub>2</sub> from a pipeline. Each  
155 group used initially vapour and dense phase CO<sub>2</sub>. Three different orifice diameters were also  
156 used for each group of tests; 15 mm, 50 mm and Full Bore Rupture (FBR). Thus six experiments in  
157 total were conducted. The initial experimental conditions of the six tests are presented in [Table 1](#).  
158 [Table 2](#) reports the instruments from which data is available for the listed experiments, including  
159 instrument type, number and location.

### 160 3. Experimental results and discussions

161 In this section the results of six release experiments with three different orifice sizes (15 mm,  
162 50 mm and FBR) are described and the recorded pressure response and phase transition data  
163 analysed. In all the following figures a rightward pointing arrow ("→") indicates decompression  
164 wave propagation from the discharge end to the closed end of the pipe, while a leftward pointing  
165 arrow ("←") indicates decompression wave propagation from the closed end to the discharge  
166 end. The numbers above the arrows represent the times for the decompression wave to travel  
167 the length of the pipe and their propagation velocities in the 1st and 2nd periods. Three kinds of  
168 pressure response parameters are defined as follows: (1) The pressure drop amplitude ( $\Delta P_d$ ) is  
169 the difference between the maximum pressure front the depressurization wave and the  
170 minimum pressure behind the depressurization wave. (2) The pressure rebound amplitude ( $\Delta P_r$ )  
171 is the difference between the minimum pressure behind the depressurization wave and the  
172 recovery pressure following depressurization. (3) The quasi-static pressure ( $P_{qs}$ ) is the recovery  
173 pressure following depressurization.

#### 174 3.1 Gas phase tests



### 175 3.1.1 Pressure response

176 Fig. 5 shows the evolution of fluid pressure after rupture for tests 1, 2 and 3. The total  
177 depressurisation times for each experiment are 1946 s, 159 s and 15 s respectively. It may be  
178 observed for tests 1 and 2 that the pressure gradient along the length of the pipe is small during  
179 decompression, this is not the case for test 3.

180 In the magnified regions of Fig. 5(a) and (b), the pressure response processes recorded by P2, P5,  
181 P7 and P9 at the beginning of tests 1 and 2 are presented. In the 1st period of tests 1 and 2 the  
182 decompression wave propagates from the orifice to the closed end at the local speed of sound in  
183 the inventory. Behind the decompression wave the inventory pressure drops rapidly. Following  
184 the pressure undershoot droplet formation and gasification causes the pressure to recover  
185 almost to the initial Pqs in both tests.  $\Delta P_f$  and  $\Delta P_r$  reduce greatly with the increase in distance  
186 from the measured point to the orifice. In the 2nd period of tests 1 and 2 the reflected  
187 decompression wave travels from the closed end of the pipe towards the rupture end, causing a  
188 further decrease in pressure from P9 to P2 in turn. The inventory achieves a second Pqs.  $\Delta P_f$  and  
189  $\Delta P_r$  are fractionally greater with increasing distance from the orifice and the value of Pqs nearer  
190 the orifice was affected by the decompression wave and was below the overall Pqs. On the whole,  
191 with the decompression wave reflecting repeatedly,  $\Delta P_f$ ,  $\Delta P_r$  and Pqs reduced gradually until the  
192 pressure drop and rebound inside the pipeline were no longer obvious. Comparing the pressure  
193 response parameters of tests 1 and 2,  $\Delta P_f$  of the two were very close, but  $\Delta P_r$  of test 2 (50 mm  
194 orifice) was smaller than that of test 1 (15 mm orifice). Pqs of tests 1 and 2 reduced about  
195 0.01 MPa and 0.11 MPa respectively following each passage of the decompression wave.

196 Fig. 5 (c) shows the variation of fluid pressure with time for test 3. After rupture, the

197 decompression wave propagates with an initial speed of 242.43 m/s. The intersection of curve 1  
198 with the pressure histories indicates the times at which droplets form at each location in the  
199 gaseous inventory.  $\Delta P_f$  from P2 to P9 decreased from 1.79 MPa to 0.62 MPa successively. After  
200 droplets formed the rate of pressure loss in the pipe decreased to about 2.47 MPa/s. The passage  
201 of the reflected decompression wave past each transducer, indicated by the intersection of the  
202 pressure histories with curve 2, caused an increase in the rate of recorded pressure drop.

203 Fig. 6 shows the pressure change rate curve in 1st period of tests 1, 2 and 3. For tests 1 and 2,  
204 after undershoot the pressure change rates at P2, P5, P7 and P9 sharp increased to the maximum  
205 value and soon back to zero. This phenomenon is caused by droplet gasification. The minimum  
206 and maximum value of the pressure change rate decreased successively with increasing distance  
207 from the orifice. For P2, P5, P7 and P9, the amplitude of the pressure rise rate was much larger  
208 than that of the pressure drop rate, and the duration time of the pressure rise was more shorter  
209 than that of the pressure drop. Comparing the pressure change rates of tests 1 and 2, the  
210 minimum value of test1 was smaller than that of test2, but the maximum value of test1 was  
211 much greater than that of test2. For test3, due to no pressure rebound, the pressure change rate  
212 at P2, P5, P7 and P9 only had a drop. For P2, P5, P7 and P9, the amplitude of the pressure drop  
213 rate decreased successively and the duration time of the pressure drop became shorter with  
214 increasing distance from the orifice.

### 215 3.1.2 Phase transition

216 Fig. 7 plots the evolution of fluid properties on the pressure-temperature phase diagram for tests  
217 1, 2 and 3. Upon rupture, the instantaneous pressure drop was accompanied by the formation of  
218 droplets, which caused the sharp temperature fall. The high environment temperature made the

219 droplets vaporise rapidly and caused the pressure rebound or stagnation. Due to the rapidity of  
220 this process it was not captured by the temperature thermocouples as their response time was  
221 too great. In test1, the overall temperature drop amplitude was not obvious due to the small  
222 orifice diameter. In test2, the lowest temperatures recorded by Tf18 and Tf18d were -16 °C and  
223 -26 °C respectively. The lowest temperatures at the top and bottom of the pipe at locations 7.4 m,  
224 54.2 m and 62.1 m from the orifice were similar and fell to 23 °C, 22 °C and 21 °C respectively. as  
225 indicated by the recorded thermodynamic trajectories of tests 1 and 2, no phase change was  
226 observed. In test 3, the lowest values of Tf2, Tf2d, Tf4 and Tf4d dropped to 3 °C, 0 °C, 5 °C and  
227 2 °C when the pipeline pressure dropped to 1.56 MPa, and the lowest values of Tf16, Tf16d, Tf18  
228 and Tf18d fell to - 56 °C, -42 °C, -64 °C and -69 °C when the pipeline pressure dropped to  
229 0.23 MPa, which suggested that the gaseous CO<sub>2</sub> at the pipeline end transformed to the  
230 gas-liquid phase in the last period of test 3.

## 231 3.2 Dense phase test

### 232 3.2.1 Pressure response

233 Fig. 8 shows the pressure evolutions for tests 4, 5 and 6. The total depressurisation times of each  
234 experiment were 7300 s, 482 s and 40 s respectively. As shown in Fig. 10(a) and (b), the  
235 decompression process for tests 4 and 5 are very similar. For test 4 and test 5, during phase I of  
236 decompression a sharp decline in pressure is observed for both tests, lasting about 34 s and 4.7 s  
237 respectively. During phase II of decompression, the inventories achieve saturation pressure ( $P_s$ ),  
238 initially at pressures of 5.08 MPa for test 4 and 5.02 MPa for test 5. Fluid pressures and  
239 temperatures then decline along the saturation line for duration times of circa 5838 s and 363 s  
240 respectively. When inventory properties reach the triple point the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of decompression

241 begins, this 3<sup>rd</sup> phase lasts about 1428 s and 119 s respectively for tests 4 and 5.

242 As shown in the magnified regions of Fig. 8(a) and (b), the pressure drop processes of  
243 decompression in phase I consisted of about 40 and 4 passes of the decompression wave for  
244 tests 4 and 5 respectively. With the propagation of decompression wave, the pressure fluctuation  
245 gradually weakened until it disappeared at the end of phase I. During the pressure response  
246 process of the 1st period of the dense tests there was an obvious slowdown between sharp  
247 decline and rapid rise compared to that seen in tests 1 to 3. Comparing the pressure response  
248 parameters of the 1st period of tests 4 and 5,  $\Delta P_f$  of the two were similar, but  $\Delta P_r$  of the former  
249 was higher than that of the later, and the Pqs of 9.04 MPa for test 4 was higher than the Pqs of  
250 7.67 MPa for test 5.

251 As shown in Fig. 8(c), during phase I of decompression, the pressure inside the pipeline sharply  
252 dropped to the saturation pressure, the rate of pressure loss then slowed down. During phase II  
253 of decompression a significant pressure gradient was recorded along the length of the pipe. In  
254 phase III of decompression, the rate of pressure drop increased due to the formation of dry ice,  
255 especially was instinct near the pipe closed end.

256 Fig. 9 shows the pressure change rate curve in 1st period of tests 4, 5 and 6. For tests 4 and 5, the  
257 minimum value of the pressure change rate decreased successively with increasing distance from  
258 the orifice. The maximum value of the pressure change rate at P2 was much smaller than that at  
259 P5, P7 and P9. For P5, P7 and P9, the amplitude of the pressure rise rate was much larger than  
260 that of the pressure drop rate, but it's opposite at P2. The wide fluctuations of the pressure  
261 change rate was caused by bubble nucleation. For test6, it's pressure change rate curve in 1st  
262 phase was similar to that for test3. However, the amplitude of the pressure drop rate along the

263 pipe of test6 was much greater than that of test3, while the duration time of the pressure drop of  
264 test6 was shorter than that of test3. This suggested that the bubble nucleation rate was much  
265 greater than the droplet gasification.

266

### 267 3.2.2 Phase transition

268 Fig. 10 shows the evolution of fluid pressure and temperature plotted on the CO<sub>2</sub> phase diagram  
269 for tests 4 to 6. Point A indicates the initial phase of each experiment, and the points B and C are  
270 the locations of phase changes. After the start of release, due to the low compressibility of dense  
271 CO<sub>2</sub> the pressure inside the pipeline fell rapidly to the saturation pressure i.e. from point A to B,  
272 corresponded to phase I of decompression. The fluid temperature drop was not large as the  
273 dense (liquid) CO<sub>2</sub> couldn't release its heat fast enough. During phase II of decompression the  
274 saturation properties evolve from points B to C. Due to the large release rate the measured  
275 temperature inside the pipeline tended to shift away from the saturation temperature, indicating  
276 the fluid was superheated. . At point C, the inventory reached the CO<sub>2</sub> triple point pressure  
277 (0.52 MPa), the subsequent generation of the dry ice at the bottom of the pipeline made the flow  
278 phase change to gas-solid flow. For test 4, Tf<sub>2</sub>, Tf<sub>4</sub>, Tf<sub>16</sub> and Tf<sub>18</sub> started to deviate from the  
279 saturation line at the point B and Tf<sub>2d</sub>, Tf<sub>4d</sub>, Tf<sub>16d</sub> and Tf<sub>18d</sub> started to deviate from the  
280 saturation line at the point C. This result showed that the transition from gas-liquid phase CO<sub>2</sub> to  
281 gas CO<sub>2</sub> during phase II at the top of the pipe appeared in advance of that at the bottom of the  
282 pipe. The phase transition along the length direction of the pipeline wasn't much different during  
283 the small bore release. For test 5, Tf<sub>2</sub>, Tf<sub>4</sub>, Tf<sub>9</sub>, Tf<sub>18</sub>, Tf<sub>2d</sub>, Tf<sub>4d</sub>, Tf<sub>9d</sub> and Tf<sub>18d</sub> started to deviate  
284 from the saturation line when the pressure reached 4.96 MPa, 4.93 MPa, 4.90 MPa, 0.52 MPa,

285 1.42 MPa, 1.36 MPa, 1.01 MPa, 0.52 MPa. This result showed that The gas-liquid phase CO<sub>2</sub> near  
286 the orifice deviated from the saturation line and turn into gas at first, subsequently happened far  
287 from the orifice with the pressure decline continuously. Meanwhile, this transition appeared at  
288 the top of the pipe before that at the bottom of the pipe. For test 6, Tf2, Tf2d, Tf4 and Tf4d  
289 started to deviate from the saturation line when the pressure reached 0.69 MPa and Tf16, Tf16d,  
290 Tf18 and Tf18d started to deviate from the saturation line when the pressure reached 0.10 MPa.  
291 This result showed that the phase transition at the top and bottom of the pipe was similar during  
292 the full bore release due to the large release rate. . The lowest temperatures of test4, test5 and  
293 test6 were -53 °C, -66 °C and -72 °C respectively. This result indicate that the lower the minimum  
294 temperature reached in the overall release process with the bigger orifice diameter.

#### 295 4. Conclusions

296 This article has presented the results of an experimental study of pressure response and phase  
297 transition during CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline blowdown. Experiments were conducted using CO<sub>2</sub> in initially  
298 gaseous, dense and supercritical phases with three different orifice sizes (15 mm, 50 mm and FBR)  
299 for a total of six experiments. From this experimental study, selected conclusions are presented  
300 as follows:

301 (1) In all experiments the rapid expansion of the high pressure CO<sub>2</sub> at the orifice resulted in a  
302 decompression wave which propagated from the orifice to the closed pipeline end, where it  
303 subsequently reflected. Passage of the decompression wave through the inventory caused the  
304 pressure undershoot, rebound or slowdown successively, and reached the quasi static pressure  
305 level. Moreover, the nearer to the orifice, the longer the quasi static pressure level was  
306 maintained.

307 (2) In the gaseous CO<sub>2</sub> releases, the pressure fall, rebound or slowdown was accompanied by  
308 droplet formation and rapid gasification. During the depressurization process, the CO<sub>2</sub> phase was  
309 generally gaseous near the orifice. When the release diameter was increased, the P-T curve  
310 would be close to the saturation line and the gas-liquid CO<sub>2</sub> would appear near the pipe end and  
311 the lowest temperature of the CO<sub>2</sub> at the bottom of the pipe was lower than that at the top.

312 (3) In the dense CO<sub>2</sub> releases, the pressure undershoot, rebound or slowdown occurred as the  
313 dense phase CO<sub>2</sub> transformed into a gas-liquid CO<sub>2</sub> mixture. With larger orifice diameters, a  
314 greater proportion of inventory in the pipeline remained in the saturation state and the lowest  
315 temperature achieved in the overall release process was lower. When the pressure fell to the CO<sub>2</sub>  
316 triple point, the CO<sub>2</sub> phase was mainly gas-solid with dry ice forming at the bottom of the  
317 pipeline.

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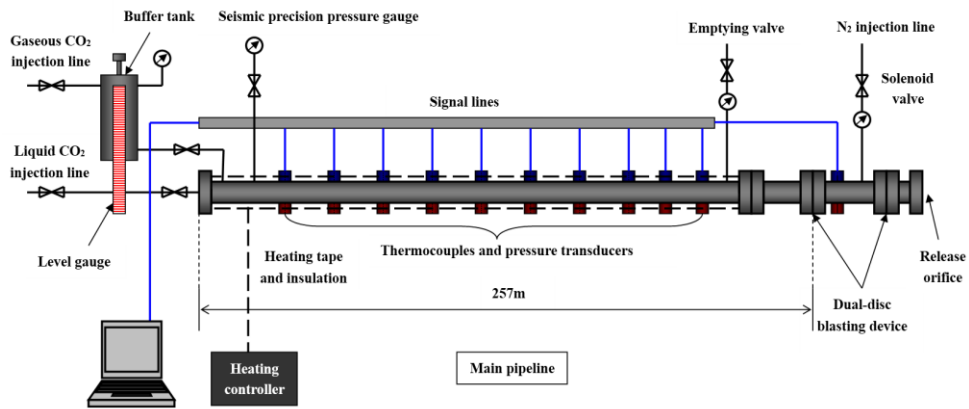
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395 Figures

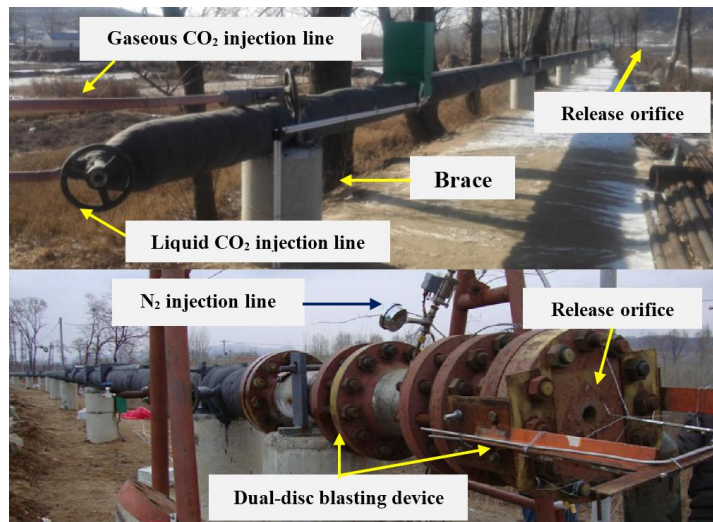
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(a) Schematic diagram



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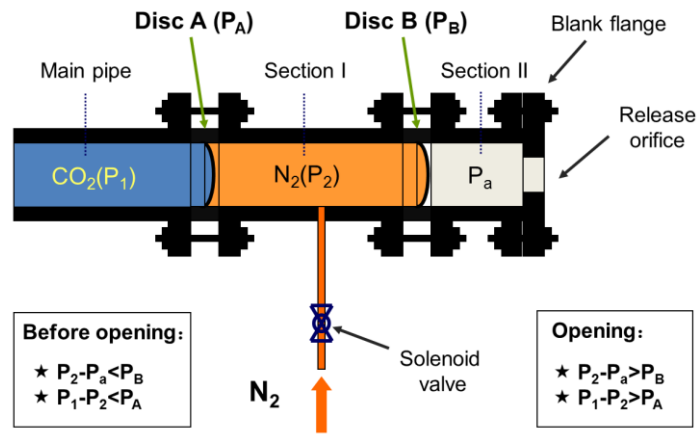
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(b) Photograph

Fig. 1 Schematic and scene graph of experimental apparatus

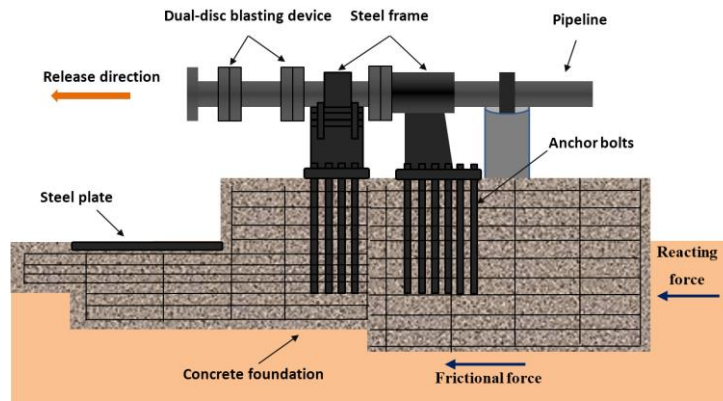
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Fig. 2 Schematic of dual-disc blasting device

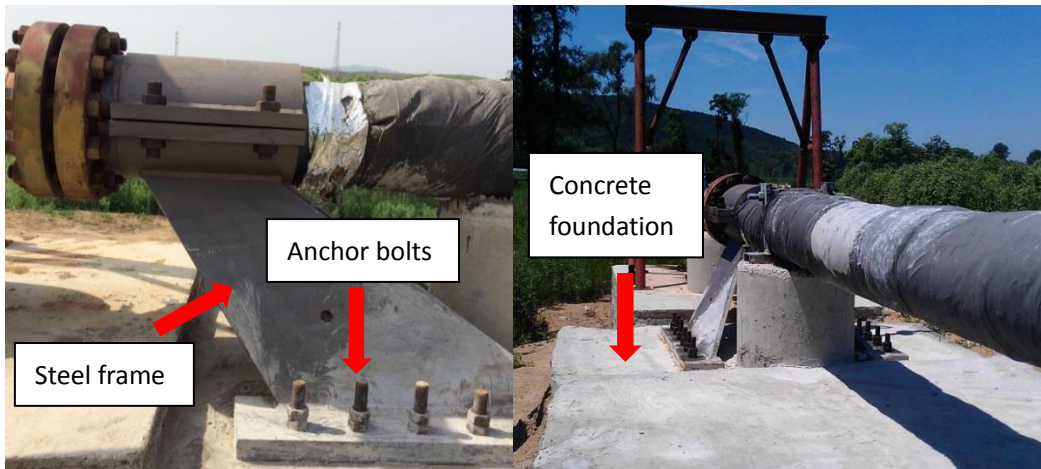
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(a) Schematic diagram



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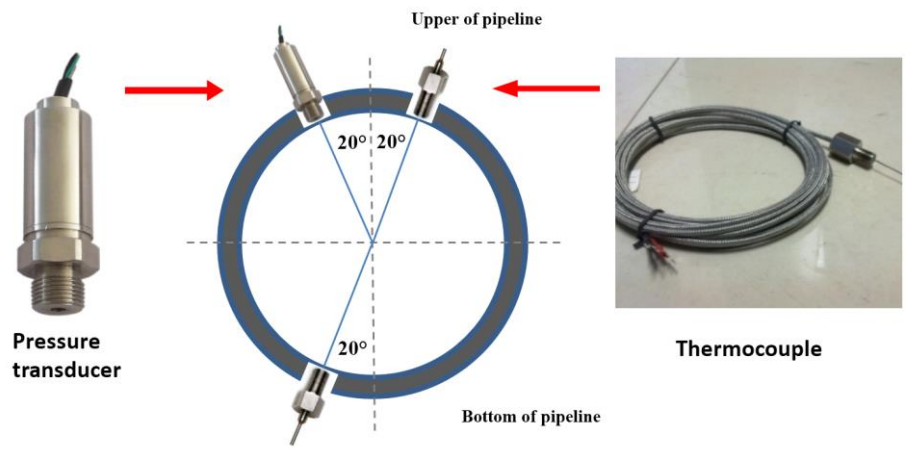
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(b) Photograph

Fig. 3 Illustration of the reinforcing device



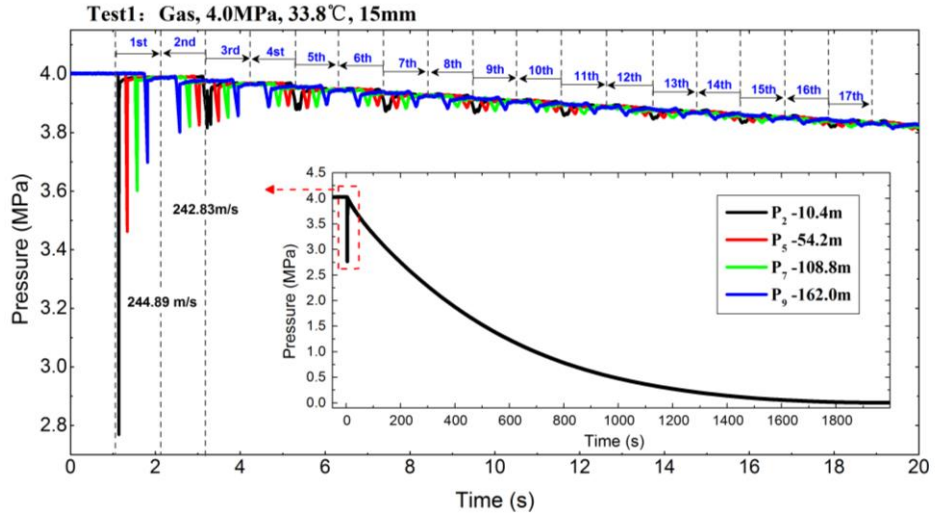
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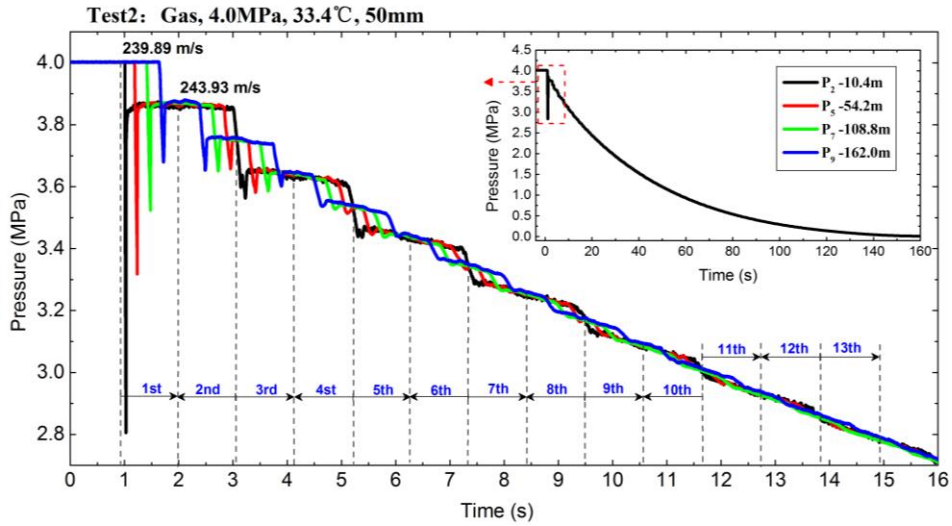
Fig. 4 Measurement point locations





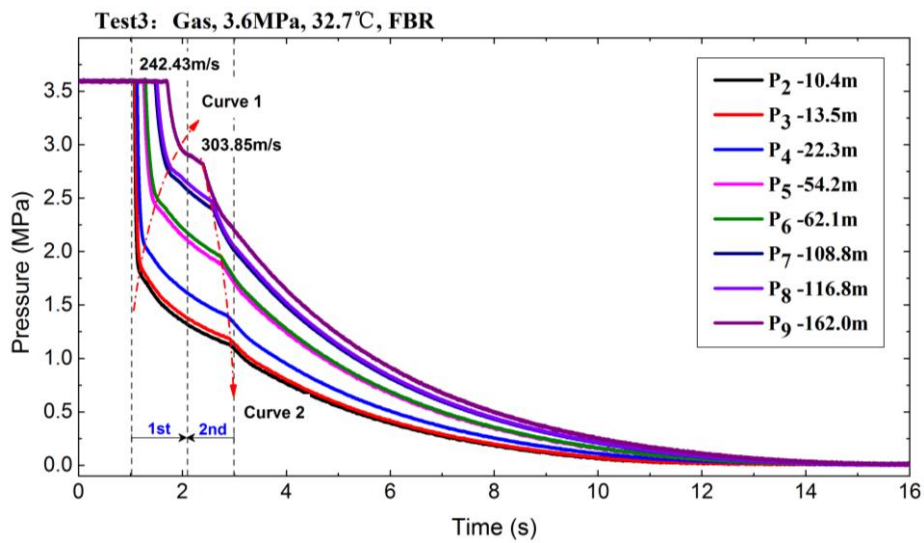
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(a) Test1-15 mm orifice



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(b) Test2-50 mm orifice



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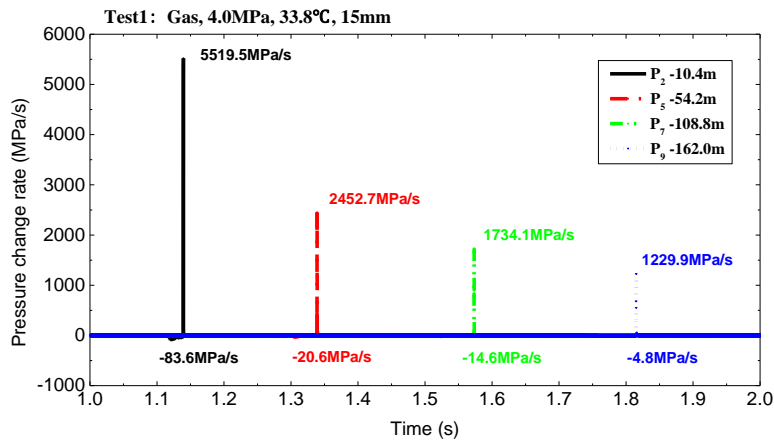
(c) Test3-FBR

Fig. 5 Pressure evolutions of the gas CO<sub>2</sub> release experiments with three different orifices (15 mm, 50 mm and FBR)

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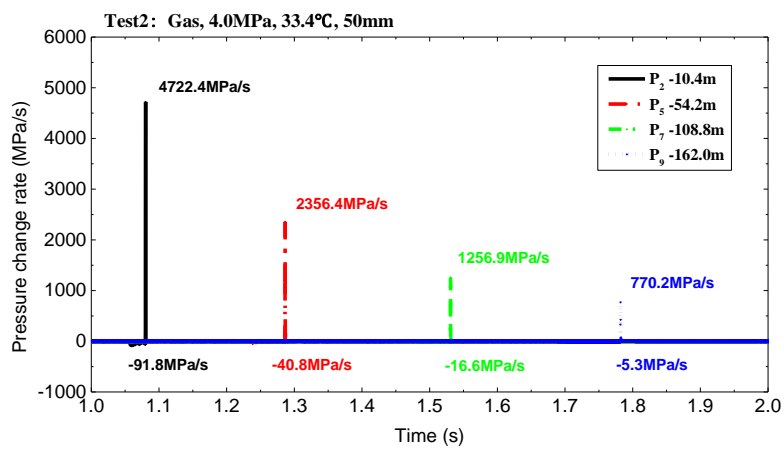
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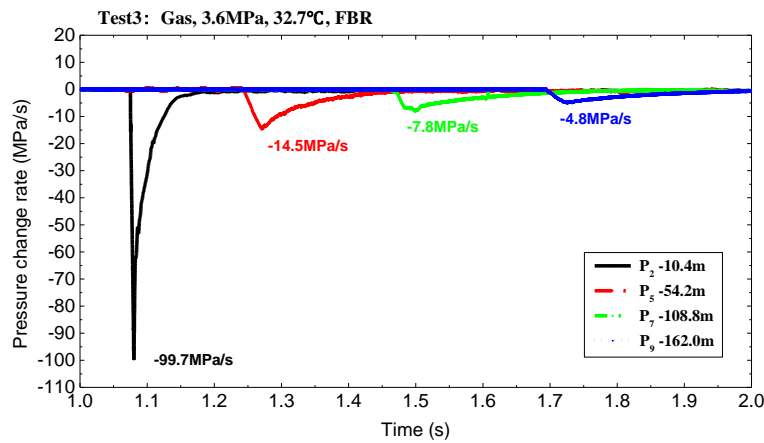
(a) Test1-15 mm orifice



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(b) Test2-50 mm orifice



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(c) Test3-FBR

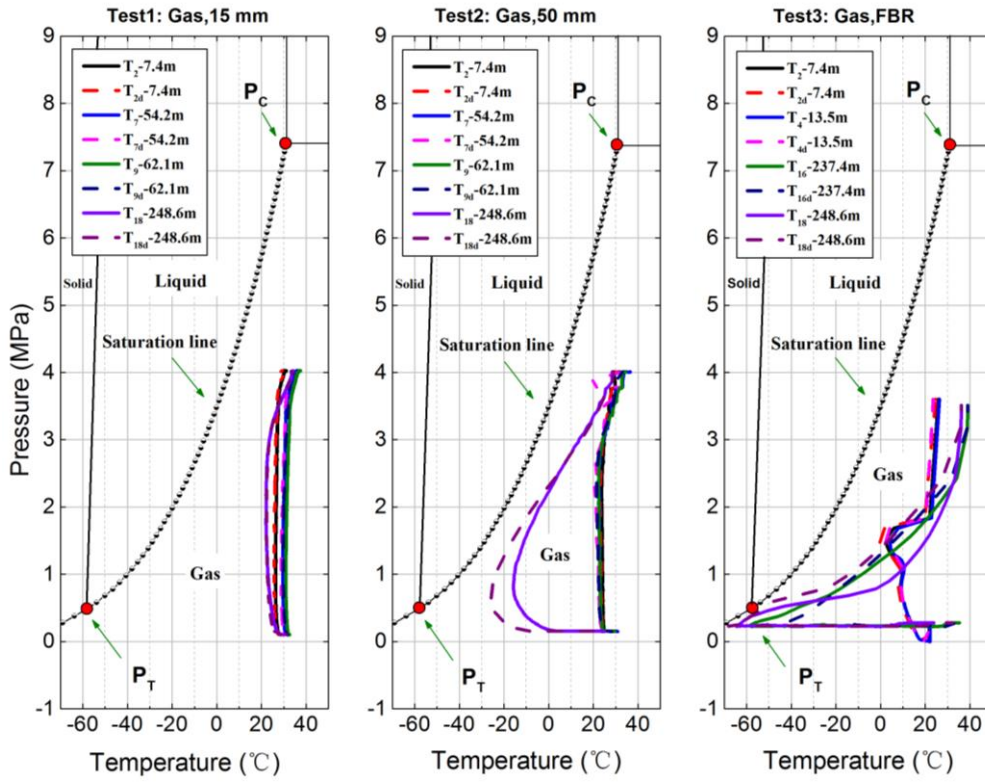
434 Fig. 6 Pressure change rate curve in 1st phase of the gas CO<sub>2</sub> release experiments with three  
435 different orifices (15 mm, 50 mm and FBR)

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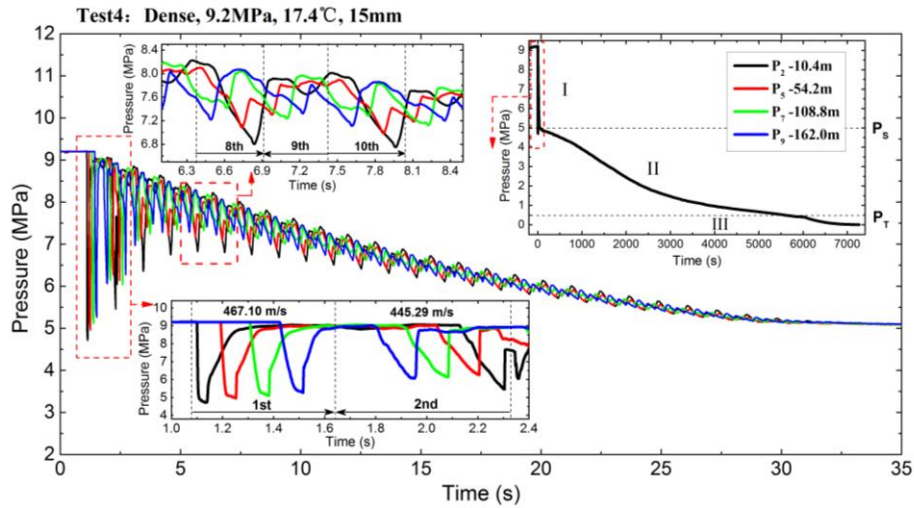
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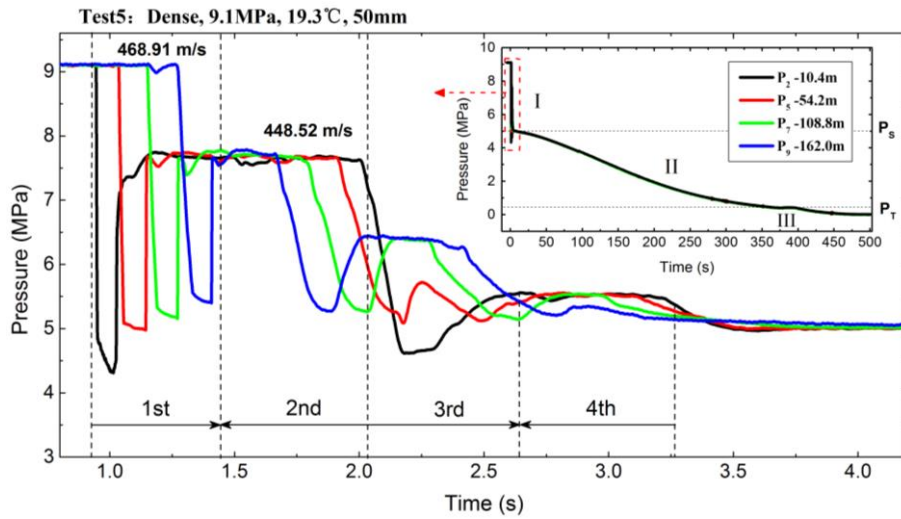
Fig. 7 Pressure-temperature development with three gas CO2 release experiments



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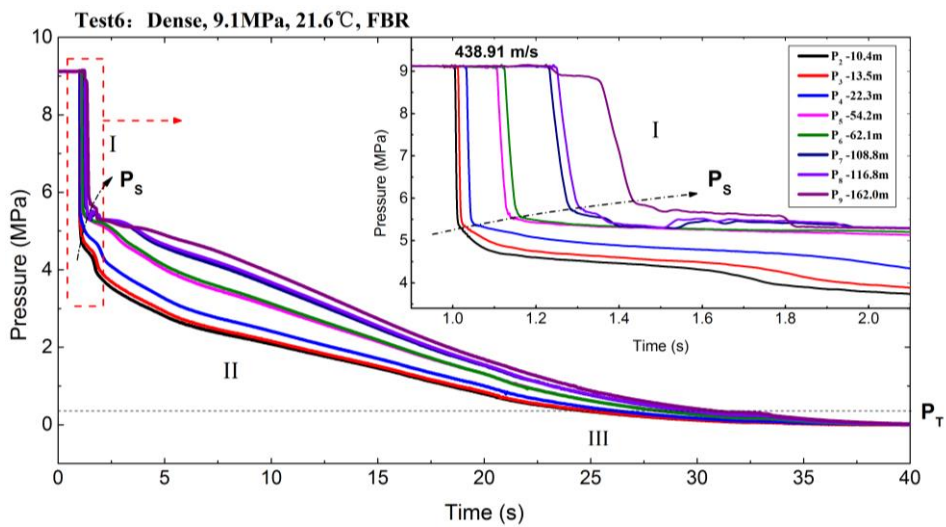
(a) Test4-15 mm orifice



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(b) Test5-50 mm orifice



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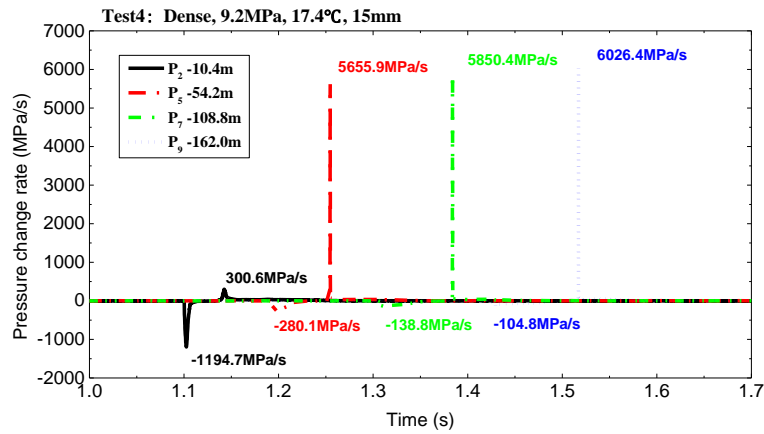
(c) Test6-FBR

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Fig. 8 Pressure evolutions of the dense CO<sub>2</sub> release experiments with three different orifices (15 mm, 50 mm and FBR)

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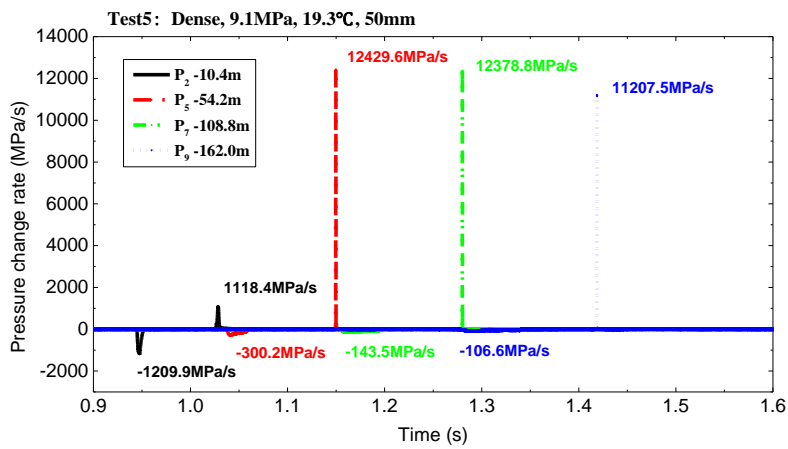
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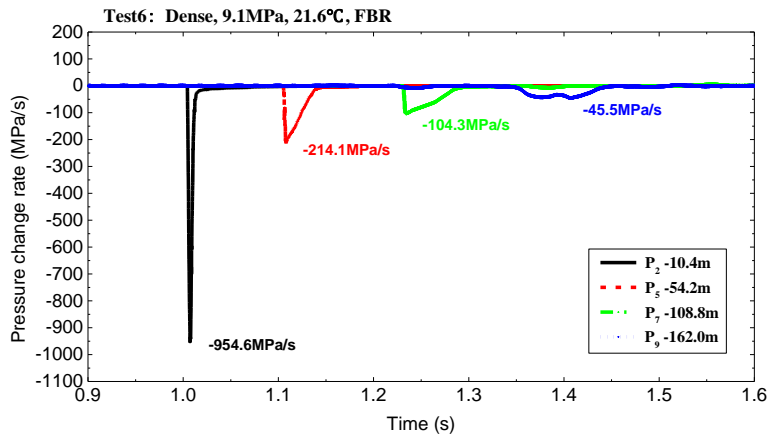
(a) Test1-15 mm orifice



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(b) Test2-50 mm orifice



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(c) Test6-FBR

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Fig. 9 Pressure change rate curve in 1st phase of the dense CO<sub>2</sub> release experiments with three different orifices (15 mm, 50 mm and FBR)

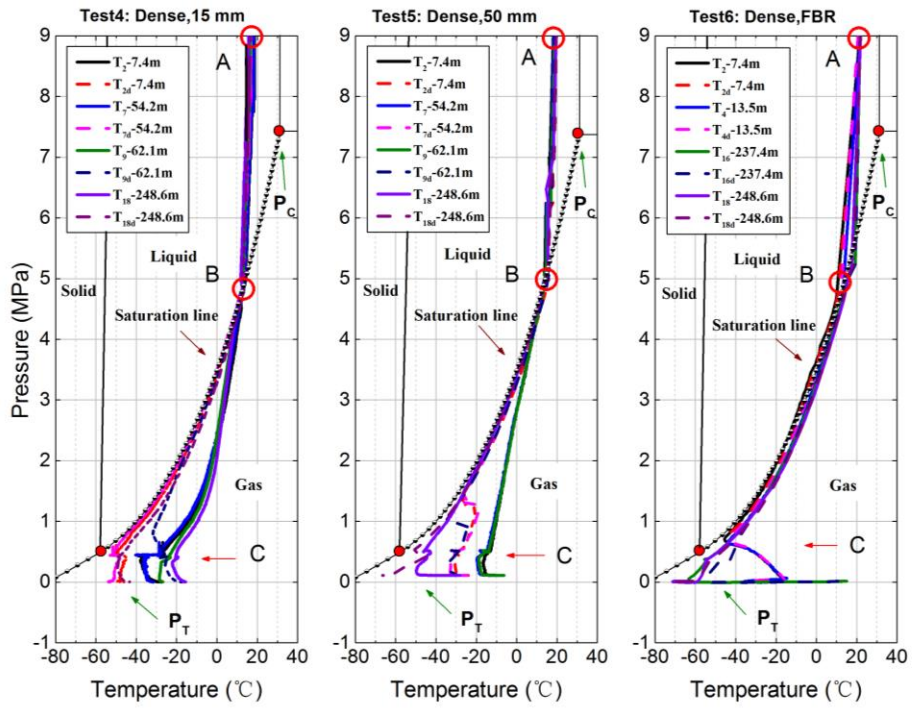
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Fig. 10 Pressure-temperature development with three dense CO<sub>2</sub> release experiments

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469 Table 1 Experimental conditions

| Number | Phase | Pressure<br>(MPa) | Temperature<br>(°C) | Orifice<br>(mm) | Inventory<br>(tons) |
|--------|-------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Test1  | Gas   | 4.05              | 33.8                | 15              | 0.97                |
| Test2  | Gas   | 4.0               | 33.4                | 50              | 0.96                |
| Test3  | Gas   | 3.6               | 32.7                | FBR             | 0.84                |
| Test4  | Dense | 9.2               | 17.4                | 15              | 9.48                |
| Test5  | Dense | 9.1               | 19.3                | 50              | 9.31                |
| Test6  | Dense | 9.1               | 21.6                | FBR             | 9.11                |

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