# Catalytic degradation of 4-chlorophenol with La/TiO<sub>2</sub> in



## dielectric barrier discharge system

Fig. 1 Mass spectrums of 4-chlorophenol before treatment (a) and after treatment (b)

The pathways for the degradation of 4-CP have been suggested based on MS identification of some intermediates of reaction, known intermediates of degradation as reported [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] and possible products of degradation. The mass spectrums of initial 4-CP sample and degradation are shown in the first and second figures. The major intermediates detected in this case were: benzoquinone (m/z 107.99), hydroquinone (m/z 110.03), maleic acid (m/z112.89). Degradation is an oxidative process, and given a facile oxidation of hydroquinone to benzoquinone [6, 7]. Then the rings are broken to generate the corresponding carboxylic acid. Gradually, the carboxylic acids are mineralized to carbon dioxide and water.

#### References

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### 2. Reactive species analysis



Fig. 2 HO<sup>•</sup> (a) and O<sub>3</sub> concentration of optimum La doping, synthetized TiO<sub>2</sub> and blank (b)

HO<sup>•</sup> was determined through chemical method using salicylic acid as the probe [1]. And ozone was measured by UV absorption at 254 nm using UV-vis

spectrophotometer (TU-1810). In our DBD system, HO<sup>•</sup> can be formed when water is ionized by electric current and irradiated with high energy ultraviolet light. As Fig. 2a shown, catalyst can promote the production of HO<sup>•</sup>. And catalyst with doping La can strengthen this process. The formation HO<sup>•</sup> as follow [2-6]:

$$H_2 \overset{e}{O} \xrightarrow{} H^{\bullet} + HO^{\bullet} \tag{1}$$

$$0_2 \xrightarrow{e} 0 + 0^{\bullet} \tag{2}$$

$$H^{\bullet} + O^{\bullet} \rightarrow HO^{\bullet} \tag{3}$$

$$TiO_2 + hv \rightarrow TiO_2(h^+ + e^-) \tag{4}$$

$$OH^- + h^+ \to HO^{\bullet} \tag{5}$$

$$OH^- + h\nu \rightarrow HO^\bullet + e_{aq}^- \tag{6}$$

The concentration of ozone with catalyst is always higher than that without catalyst as shown in Fig. 2b. This result might be attributed to highly energized electrons ( $e^{-}$ ), holes ( $h^{+}_{vb}$ ) in the valence band and electrons ( $e_{cb}^{-}$ ) in the conductance band on the surface of catalyst, oxygen in gas or aqueous phase may be converted to more active species (i.e. O<sup>•</sup><sub>(aq.)</sub>, O<sup>•</sup><sub>2(aq.)</sub>) [7]. The reaction equation [8, 9]:

$$O_{2(gas)} \rightarrow O_{2(aq.)} \tag{7}$$

$$O_{2(aq.)} + e_{cb}^{-} \rightarrow 2O_{2(aq.)}^{\bullet -} \tag{8}$$

$$O_{2(gas)} + e_{(gas)} \rightarrow 2O_{(gas)} \rightarrow 2O_{(aq.)} \qquad (9)$$

$$O_{2(aq.)} + e_{(aq.)} \rightarrow O_{2(aq.)}^{\bullet-}$$

$$\tag{10}$$

$$O_{2(aq.)}^{\bullet-} + h_{vb}^{+} \rightarrow O_{2(aq.)}^{\bullet}$$

$$\tag{11}$$

$$O_{(aq.)}^{\bullet-} + h_{vb}^+ \rightarrow O_{(aq.)}^{\bullet}$$
(12)

$$O_{(aq.)}^{\bullet} + O_{2(aq.)}^{\bullet} \rightarrow O_{3(aq)}$$
<sup>(13)</sup>

And direct electron transfer and adsorption reactions are induced on the surface of  $TiO_2$  under ultraviolet light and visible light [10, 11].

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